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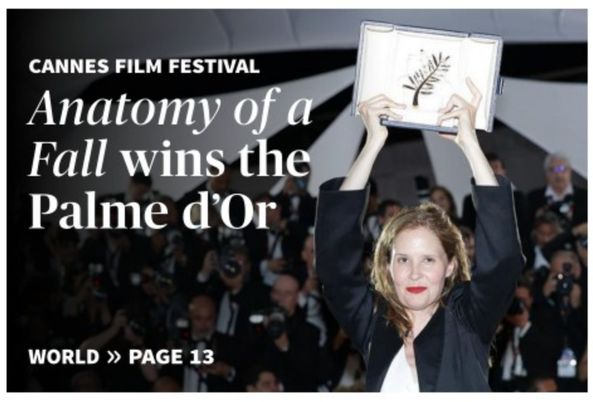

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Wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Sangeeta Phogat being detained by the security personnel in New Delhi on Sunday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Wrestlers detained, protest site cleared

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amid the inauguration of the new Parliament building on Sunday, wrestlers protesting at Jantar Mantar were detained by security personnel as they tried to march to the venue. Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia were among the top wrestlers who faced action.

The Delhi Police and paramilitary personnel tried to bust their 35-day protest demanding the arrest of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh for alleged sexual harassment by dismantling their tents and removing personal belongings. Within minutes, the security personnel cleared the protest site, which saw hundreds of supporters joining the wrestlers every day.

The women protesters, including Ms. Phogat and Ms. Malik, were released around 7.20 p.m. Special Commissioner of Police (Law and Order Zone 1) Dependra Pathak said that men would be released later.

The police booked Ms. Malik, Ms. Phogat and Mr. Punia and their supporters on charges of rioting and obstructing public servant in discharge of duty.

The WFI chief was present for the inauguration of the Parliament building. The wrestlers resumed their sit-in on April 23 after the first round of protests in January demanding his arrest.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

India gets new Parliament House; PM says it's symbol of aspirations

Modi speaks of forging new paths to achieving India's dreams of becoming a developed country; representatives of 22 Opposition parties boycott function; in her message, President says she is happy that PM is inaugurating the building

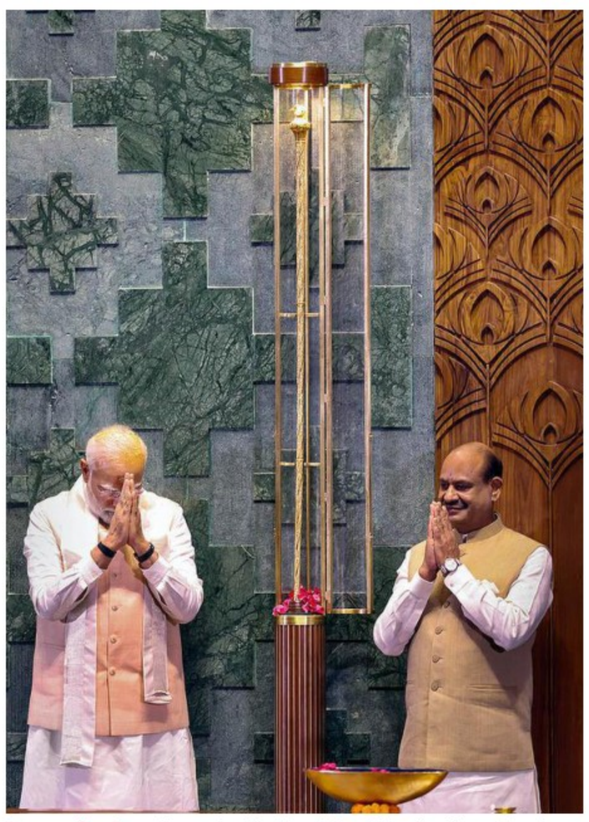
Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated India's new Parliament building, and called it a symbol of the "aspirations" of 140-crore citizens and a vehicle that will drive India in the next 25 years towards its goal of becoming a "developed country" to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the nation's Independence.

The thrust of the Prime Minister's 35-minute address was about casting a "new India" that had left behind a "slave mentality" and was moving forward. The word "new" figured more than 40 times in his speech.

"It is not only a building. It is a reflection of the aspirations and dreams of 140 crore Indians. This is the temple of our democracy giving the message of India's determination to the world," he said.

Mr. Modi said there came a time in the history of every country when consciousness was awakened anew; the last such phase was 25 years before India gained Independence.



Sceptre in place: Narendra Modi and Om Birla after installing the *Sengol* in the Lok Sabha chamber. PTI

"In 25 years, India will complete 100 years of its Independence. Together, we have to make India a developed nation in these 25 years. In the next 25 years, the new laws to be made in this new building of Parliament will make India a developed India," he said.

The new Parliament House will be a witness to the rise of an "*atmanirbhar bharat*" (self-reliant India), he said, adding that the new building was an example of the coexistence of the ancient and the modern.

Elaborate ceremony

The inaugural ceremony was conducted in two phases. In the morning, Mr. Modi – dressed in a *dhoti* and *kurta* and accompanied by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla – offered floral tributes to the Mahatma Gandhi statue on the premises.

Then, amid Vedic chants by priests, he performed Ganapati *homam*. After prostrating before the *Sengol*, he sought blessings from the high priests of various *adheenams* in Tamil Nadu with the sceptre in hand. He then carried the *Sengol* in a procession to the new Parliament building, amid tunes of nadaswaram and chanting of Vedic mantras, and installed it in a special enclosure on the right side of the Speaker's chair in the Lok Sabha chamber.

A multi-faith prayer was also held to mark the occasion. Mr. Modi felicitated some of the workers with shawls and souvenirs for their key role in the construction of the building.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Self-glorifying event, says Opposition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress-led Opposition parties boycotted the inauguration of the new Parliament building, likening it to a "coronation" and a "self-glorifying" event conducted with utter disdain for scientific temper.

"Parliament is the voice of the people! The Prime Minister is treating the inauguration of the Parliament House as a coronation," Congress leader Rahul Gandhi tweeted.

Criticising the function, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said "*sengol* (sceptre) had no role in a democracy where people elected their government".

Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati, who was among the few non-BJP leaders who opposed the boycott of the event, congratulated the government on the new Parliament building.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 11

NEARBY

BMTC to continue to accept ₹2,000 currency

BENGALURU
After the Hoskote depot of the BMTC issued an order to not accept ₹2,000 notes from commuters, the corporation clarified that its central office had not issued any such order.
» Page 7

78,250 candidates appear for COMEDK exam

BENGALURU
As many as 78,250 candidates wrote the COMEDK Engineering exam, which was held on Sunday across the country.
» Page 2

Question mark on pending railway projects

MYSURU
The change of guard in the State has put a question mark on a slew of pending railway projects, which were to be taken up on a cost-sharing basis between the Centre and the State. » Page 6

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGES 4 & 5

40 extremists killed in encounters, says Biren

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI/IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh on Sunday said that about 40 extremists had been killed in encounters with security forces following attacks on unarmed civilians on the periphery of the Imphal valley.

The encounters and attacks on villagers by armed groups coincided with Army chief General Manoj Pande's two-day visit to the violence-hit State on Saturday. Home Minister Amit Shah was scheduled to visit Manipur on Monday.

High alert: Army jawans keeping watch over a violence-hit area of Imphal town on Sunday. PTI

Mr. Singh told journalists in Imphal that the spurt in violent attacks on civilian houses on the periphery of the valley in the past two days "seemed well-planned and simultaneous" as a show of strength. "The attacks are strongly condemned, especially when Union Minister of State for Home Nityananda Rai is in the State and group peace missions are being formed as part of efforts to bring back peace in Manipur," he said in the presence of eight Cabinet Ministers.

"The terrorists are shooting civilians using M-16 and AK-47 assault rifles and sniper guns besides burning down houses in many villages. We have started taking very strong action against them with the help of the Army and other security forces," he said.

"We have reports that some 40 of these terrorists have been killed by the security forces," he said, lamenting the casualties on both sides and promising all possible steps to bring back normalcy in the State.

"Both sides" pertain to the Kuki group of tribes and the majority Meitei people caught in an ethnic battle since May 3 triggered by multiple reasons, one of them being a Manipur High Court order asking the State to pursue a move for granting Scheduled Tribe status to the Meiteis.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Portfolio allocation likely today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The tussle among Ministers for some key portfolios is said to be the reason for the delay in issuing the final notification on allocation of portfolios by Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to his ministerial colleagues, including Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar.

According to sources, the allocation of portfolios is likely to be made on Monday. The delay is said to be on account of a few Ministers seeking plum portfolios.

Actually, the allocation of portfolios was expected to be done on Sunday itself, as 24 Ministers had been sworn in on Saturday.

Eight-time MLA Ramalinga Reddy reportedly expressed displeasure on the likely allocation of Transport portfolio to him. Mr. Shivakumar called on Mr. Reddy at his residence on Sunday and held talks over allocation of portfolios in a bid to pacify him.

Similarly, senior leader G. Parameshwara seems to be not keen on the Home portfolio. He had held the portfolio earlier in the Congress government. It is reported that Priyanka Kharge has expressed his desire to have Home portfolio. Though a list of allocation of portfolios is doing rounds since Saturday, final approval on who would get what will be known only on Monday. Moreover, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, whose final stamp is required for official allocation of portfolios, is said to be out of station, sources maintained.

It may be noted that for the first time after several years, Karnataka has seen formation of a full-fledged Ministry with maximum size of 34 Ministers.

Centre fiercely neutral in Manipur, says Assam CM

Varghese K. George
NEW DELHI

The BJP governments at the State and the Centre will be able to resolve the ongoing conflict in Manipur through dialogue, says Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who is the party's key troubleshooter in the northeast.

"The Central government is being fiercely neutral while dealing with all the communities. With the kind of time, kind of energy [Home Minister] Amit Shah is spending in northeast, I am sure that positive result will emerge," Mr. Sarma told *The Hindu* in an exclusive, wide-ranging interview.

According to Mr. Sarma, the "unexpected" order of the Manipur High Court on April 20 to consider the request for Meitei community's inclusion on the Scheduled Tribes list within four months derailed a plan for a comprehensive dialogue that the State was planning.

"The inter-ethnic dialogue has to be in a more matured manner, leading to more authentic cooperation. In the last five years, we had created that situation and a dialogue was beginning. But unfortunately the High Court order changed the course of events," he said.

INTERVIEW ON » PAGE 10

BJP govt. spent ₹44.42 crore on ads in four months ahead of Assembly polls, reveals RTI query

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The erstwhile Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government had spent ₹44.42 crore on advertisements in the print and the electronic media in four months ahead of the Assembly polls. The money was spent between December 1, 2022, and March 29, 2023.

This was informed by the Department of Information and Public Relations in response to a Right to Information Act (RTI) query filed by Puttur-based activist Rajesh Krishnaprasad.

However, he did not receive details on the names of the media houses in which the government spent to place advertisements. It may be recalled that the model code of conduct came into force on March 29.

Break-up

The response also shows that the government spent ₹27.46 crore on print media and ₹16.96 crore on electronic media for publicising its schemes and works, besides countering the then Opposition's campaigns, such as the Bharat Jodo Yatra and the Mekedatu padayatra.

The BJP lost the elections securing 66 seats, while the Congress won 135.

Mr. Krishnaprasad told *The Hindu* that while it is common for any government to spend on advertisements to spread awareness about its schemes, spending excessive money of taxpayers during elections just to woo voters is wrong. "The BJP has spent nearly ₹50 crore and some of the ads were placed only to criticise the Opposition. How can the government exchequer spend money on this," he asked.

Mr. Krishnaprasad said he had also asked for a break-up of the spendings on media houses, but it was not shared by the information officer.

Taxpayers' money

Ramalinga Reddy, Minister, said the then BJP government had wasted the taxpayers' money through this expenditure. The government's job is to spend money responsibly, he said.

"After going through the details, I will file a complaint with the Lokayukta to initiate a probe into the same."

On the other hand, Ganesh Karnik of the BJP said the amount spent is not huge and with competitive ad pricing, such costs are common.

"The Delhi government had spent more than this for government ads," he alleged.

Dream went up in smoke, but MI emerged stronger

After an insipid start followed by a roller-coaster ride to its campaign, Rohit's men made the most of a formidable batting line-up to reach Qualifier 2 where they finished second best to Hardik's side

IPL-16

Keerthana Shankar

Takeaways: Green justified his price tag with all-round performances, seamer Madhwal turned out to be the surprise packet of the bowling unit and Suryakumar played the aggressor role to perfection... factors that would have pleased skipper Rohit. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM, GETTY IMAGES, R.V. MOORTHY

Mumbai Indians has the legacy of being the most successful franchise in the Indian Premier League, the biggest T20 league in the world.

The recipe to such effective campaigns had been diligent scouting to pick uncapped players and calculated buys which added immense value to the roster. However, after a dominant run in the preceding two years, MI stumbled in the 2021 season, narrowly missing out on a playoffs spot because of an inferior net run rate compared to Kolkata Knight Riders.

When the mega auction came calling in 2022, MI's carefully curated strategy split at the seams. The franchise had to choose among its stalwarts, retaining Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Jasprit Bumrah and Kieron Pollard. This meant it had to let go off a few members of its core squad such as Hardik and Krunal Pandya, Quinton de Kock, Trent Boult and Ishan Kishan, though the last-named was bought back later for a whopping ₹15.25 crore. A greatly diminished purse resulted in a poor show for the remainder of the auction.

Rock bottom

The 2022 season saw MI hit rock bottom when it went home with the wooden spoon. In spite of such a disappointing campaign, there was a silver lining – the discovery of Tilak Varma, a young middle-order batter who scored 397 runs (14 matches) and emerged the star in the absence of Suryakumar.

MI had a few tough calls to make during the auction preceding IPL 2023 and it did so with renewed vigour. Once again it splurged, this time on Cameron Green, buying him for a colossal ₹17.25 crore. With 452 runs and six wickets (16 games) to his credit, the Australian all-rounder justified the move and proved a suitable replacement for the retired Pollard.

Despite the 2022 debacle, MI fans awaited the 16th season with much enthusiasm as they were promised the mouth-watering combination of Bumrah and Jofra Archer. The two have been among the best pacers of their generation and to see them bowl in tandem would have been a sight to behold. However, injuries have plagued the former since mid-2022 and though the latter did make a comeback, he was but a shadow of his former self. This not only threw MI's bowling unit into disarray, but also the balance of the side.

Not surprisingly, MI's performance in the first two games was nothing short of shoddy. In the opening match against Royal Challengers Bangalore, Virat Kohli and Faf du Plessis effortlessly guided their side home with 22 balls to spare. Similarly, Ravindra Jadeja and Ajinkya Rahane starred for long-standing rival Chennai Super Kings as it easily breached Fort Wankhede. Skipper Rohit turned up in the third game with a classy half-century, taking MI to victory against Delhi Capitals.

The biggest disappointment of the season till the fourth match, against KKR, was Suryakumar's form. The swashbuckling batter, ranked first in ICC's T20I rankings, was struggling to connect the ball and was even out for a golden duck while scoring only 16 runs in three games.

For MI, the tipping point was Suryakumar's return to form. Despite Venkatesh Iyer's scintillating ton, Mumbai finally flaunted its batting muscle to cruise to victory in just 17.4 overs. The outfit registered its third straight win by defeating Sunrisers Hyderabad, courtesy a consummate bowling performance. Green was at the forefront with bat and ball.

The next two games – against Punjab Kings and Gujarat Titans – did not end in jubilation for MI. On both occasions, Rohit's bowlers leaked too many runs and the batters couldn't save the side despite a valiant effort during chases.

However, in the next game versus Rajasthan Royals where Yashasvi Jaiswal took the attack to the cleaners, the MI batters clinically gunned down a mammoth target of 213. MI charted a similar course against Kings in the return fixture.

Yet, when the team met CSK in the latter's home ground, MI once again faltered. With only four games left in the league phase, MI had to rally its troops to earn a berth in the business end. The next two matches saw MI simply blow away RCB and GT. The momentum shifted against Lucknow Super Giants where the batters narrowly missed out on taking the team over the line. Now MI's playoffs chances did not rely only on a victory in its last game but also on the results of other fixtures.

But Green stamped his authority with a fantastic century in pursuit of 200 posted by SRH. When RCB lost its last league game to Shubman Gill's brilliance on a rain-addled day, MI had achieved its first target. At the halfway stage, MI had won only three out of seven games. Seven more contests later, it had qualified for the playoffs in what was one of the most competitive editions ever.

MI met LSG at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in the Eliminator. Despite losing all its three previous encounters against Super Giants, this one turned out to be a walk in the park for Mumbai. Akash Madhwal demolished the Lucknow outfit, returning stupendous figures of five for five.

The next challenge was against the defending champion, Gujarat Titans, which MI had bested twice in three games before. What ensued was a breathtaking and majestic display by Gill who exposed the inconsistent bowling attack. It was ironic that Gill, whose century knocked out RCB, eliminated MI too!

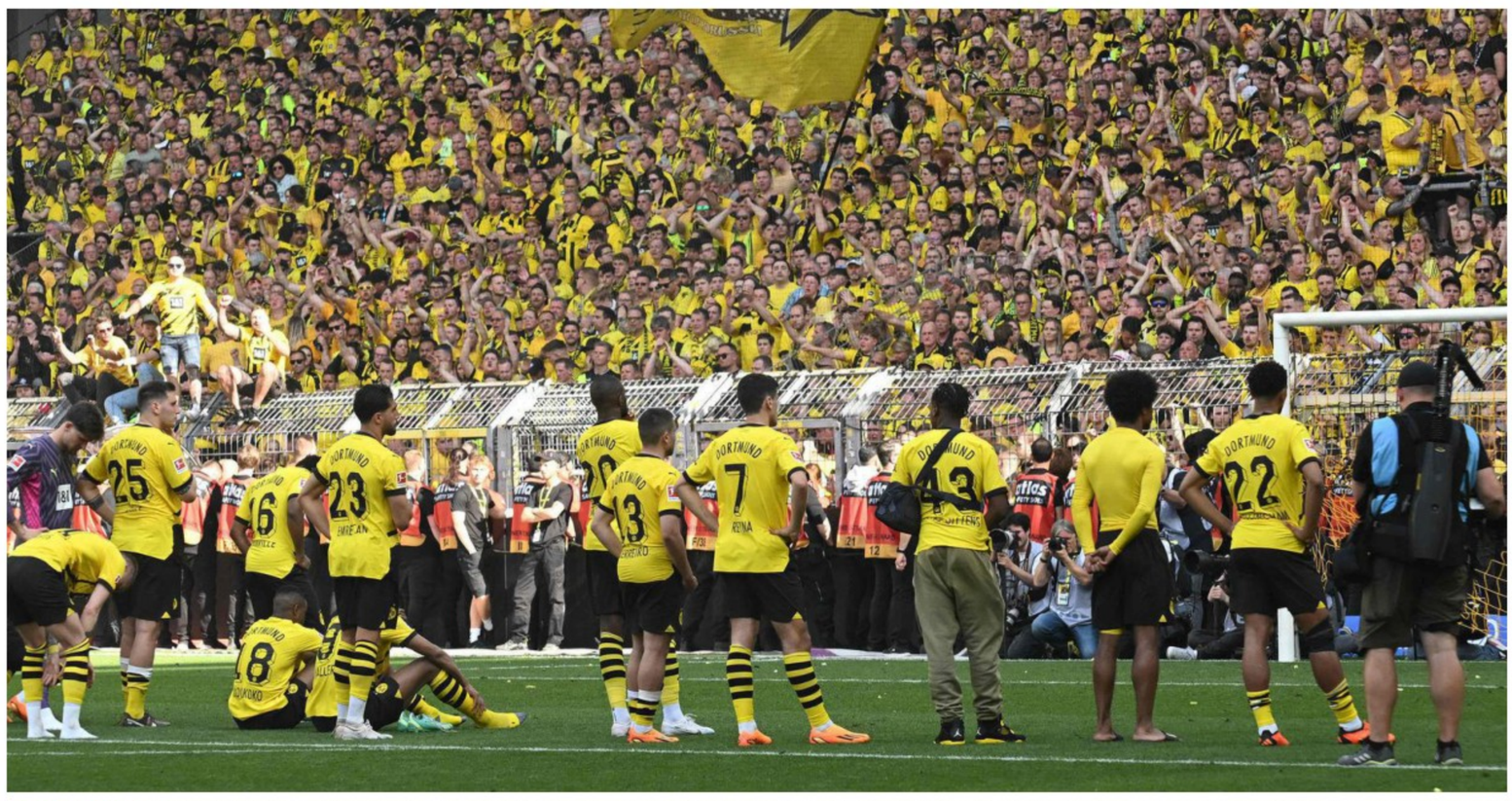
MI was in cruise mode in the first half of the chase but lost its way to fall short by a distance. Once a torch-bearer for the side, Hardik Pandya became MI's nemesis as his men extinguished the hopes of the five-time champion.

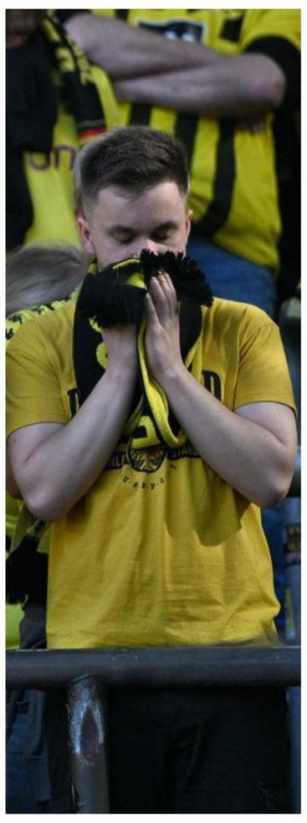
Never write off

However, MI showed time and time again why it has been a formidable side by displaying grit, resilience and determination. From lagging at the bottom to marching up the table, MI proved that it can never be written off. There have been lessons to learn from a season of contrasts.

The batters established a record for the most 200-plus totals (six times) by a team in a single edition while the bowlers conceded the most 200-plus totals (six again!) in a season. With a dynamic and deep batting line-up, if MI gives a better shape to its bowling unit, a sixth title may not be too far away.

A case of so-near-yet-so-far for Borussia Dortmund once again





Sea of emotions: Dortmund's famed Yellow Wall gives its unflinching support to the players after a heartbreaking result, while coach Edin Terzic consoles his dejected wards. For Marco Reus, the outcome was particularly harsh as his decade long wait for the title with his boyhood club lingers. The clubs fans, too, will have to pick themselves up from this disappointment and come back stronger next season. AFP, GETTY IMAGES, REUTERS

Aneesh Dey

"We feel empty," said Borussia Dortmund coach Edin Terzic after seeing his side lose the Bundesliga title to Bayern Munich on the last day. Dortmund had almost climbed the peak, only to be harshly toppled at the final juncture. A wait of more than a decade turned longer for the Ruhr Valley club.

It was a season of stark contrasts for Dortmund. In the first-half, it seemed like business as usual where Bayern would run away with the title. At one point, Dortmund was nine points behind its archrival. The gap seemed too big to recover, given Munich's ruthless nature in the league. But Bayern lost the plot, owing largely to internal issues, which also saw coach Julian Nagelsmann getting sacked. Thomas Tuchel – his replacement – found the initial days with the Bavarians challenging.

Run of wins

Beginning 2023 in style, Dortmund picked up 10 wins in a row in all competitions between January and the beginning of March, and suddenly it was snapping at Bayern's heels. A run of favourable fixtures also aided the Black and Yellows.

Heading into the final three games, Dortmund was just a point behind Bayern. Terzic and his men were on the lookout for one slip-up from Bayern, and they got it when the defending champion succumbed to RB Leipzig. With a 3-0 win against Augsburg on the penultimate matchday, Dortmund climbed to the summit with a two-point lead going into the final week.

The occasion was perfect. The famous 'Yellow Wall' – picturesque as ever – was booming and chants reverberated the feeling of hope around Signal Iduna Park. Making their way onto the pitch, surrounded by a sea of fans garbed in the fabled colours of Black and Yellow, the Dortmund players knew what to do. Three points at the end of 90 minutes against Mainz and another glorious chapter would be written in the history books.

But Dortmund got a harsh reality check on the final day. Down 0-2 inside the first 25 minutes, it could only salvage a 2-2 draw. It would have been enough if Bayern had also dropped points against Cologne. When Dejan Ljubicic equalised to cancel Kingsley Coman's opener, it seemed like the stars had aligned for Dortmund, but Jamal Musiala late strike tilted the bragging rights Bayern's way again.

The city of Dortmund, which has always been dominated by the working class, was primarily known for its production of coal and beer. When the wave of modernisation hit, the city got all the amenities that one expects in the 21st Century.

People moved away from the traditional way of doing things and embraced the present. What remained unchanged was the dogged attitude – the most distinct character trait of the working class. Every day was a fight for survival, and harping on disappointments wasn't a luxury many had.

Never give up

This 'never give up' attitude is something that has seeped into the core foundation of the club. Dortmund did not give up on Sunday when it trailed Mainz, but it just wasn't its day – like it hasn't been on many occasions over the years.

Since Bundesliga's inception, Dortmund has won five times and been runner-up on 10 occasions while Bayern has a staggering 32 titles.

Over the years, the club from the Ruhr has seen its players move for greener pastures. Yet, during every match, the Black and Yellow banners fly high. The Wall stands tall.

It isn't certain if Dortmund will challenge for the title again next season or even come so close.

It could most likely lose another star player in Bellingham, who is poised for a Real Madrid move in the summer.

What is certain is that the fans would serenade their players on the opening day of next season just as passionately as they did after losing out on the title on Sunday.

The Bundesliga wasn't to be this season, but for Dortmund, next season might just be it.

78,250 candidates appear for COMEDK exam across India

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While the Chemistry paper was moderate, students found the Mathematics and the Physics papers to be lengthy and difficult in the COMEDK Engineering exam, which were held on Sunday across the country.

In the exams, which were conducted in 179 cities across the country (264 centres) and 24 cities in the State (80 centres), 80.94% attendance was observed for the first session and 81.06% for the second one across the country.

Karnataka registered an attendance of 88.75% and 81.06% in the two sessions respectively.

Students entering the COMEDK exam centre at BNM College in Banashankari on Sunday.
BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

"The number of candidates, in total, who wrote the exam is 78,250 out of 96,607. In Karnataka, the number of candidates who attended the test is 25,487 out of 28,711, whereas the number of candidates who attended the test in Bengaluru is 12,736 out of 14,240," said Gururaj R. Bhat, Assistant Secretary, COMEDK.

Some students also faced technical glitches while writing the exam. Paneesh Y. Gowda, who wrote at BNMIT, said, "I actually faced a lot of problems as my monitor kept shutting down and they had to change my monitor twice. I lost around 10 minutes of my time."

'Provide midday meals from the first day'

While attendance is mandatory for teachers and students from May 29, the teaching of curriculum will begin on June 1

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As students return to school on Monday, for the new academic year, all government and aided school administrations have been instructed to mandatorily provide midday meals from the first day itself, along with a sweet item.

Schools have been directed to clean their premises, including the classrooms, kitchen utensils, foodgrains, and water sumps and dispose of unnecessary items before the students start their first day. Administrators have also been asked to keep their timetables ready for each class.

For the new school year, the government has rolled out a set of academic guidelines to ensure smooth functioning throughout the year. Schools will have a total of 244 functioning days during the academic year of 2023-24.

A file photo of students taking the midday meal at the BBMP school at Ganganagar in Bengaluru.

Starting Monday, schools will function until October 7; from October 8 to October 24, they will close for Dasara holidays. The second term will begin on October 25 and go on till April 10, 2024, said the officials of the Department of Public Instruction in a circular.

While attendance is mandatory for teachers and students from May 29, the teaching of the curriculum will begin from June 1. Schools have been instructed to compulsorily issue textbooks and uniforms to students for the new academic year before May 30. They have also been told to finish the Aadhaar verification process for pending students.

'Vidya Pravesha' or school preparation module activities for students of first grade will also begin on June 1 and continue for a period of 40 days. Schools have been directed to mandatorily admit all students to the next classes under the 'admission with promotion' process.

#THtalksBengaluru: Live chat with BMTC MD on June 1

#THTALKSBENGALURU

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

From a lack of services during the late evening hours to last-mile connectivity, citizens have often flagged issues with the city bus services provided by the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC). Despite more options being available now, including Namma Metro, BMTC buses continue to be the lifeline of the public transport in burgeoning Bengaluru, catering to an average ridership of around 28 lakh.

At a glance

No of schedules	5,563
No. of vehicles	6,767 daily
Service km	10.51 lakh
No. of trips	5,4429
Depots: 50	
Bus stations 48	Daily traffic revenue ₹4.43 crore
Staff employed 29,412	
Bus staff ratio	5.29

*Data as on February 28, 2023
Source: BMTC

On June 1 [Thursday], IAS officer Sathyavathi G., Managing Director of BMTC, will answer your questions as she participates in #THtalksBengaluru, a live chat with *The Hindu* and its readers from 4.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. You can send in your questions to us via mail (letters.bangalore@thehindu.co.in) or on our Twitter handle (@THBengaluru) right away, apart from participating in the live chat.

Bus commuters' forum highlights critical issues of mobility

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As the new government takes charge, the Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike (BBPV), a bus commuters' forum, has listed critical issues of mobility, city planning, and governance that need urgent and systemic attention. The same has been submitted to the Chief Minister.

"Poor planning and policies have caused a proliferation of private vehicles and an inadequate public transport system, leading to congestion, emissions, and pollution. Transport being a significant contributor to climate change emissions, mobility needs to act as a lever to combat climate change as well. This is the framework that the new government should have in mind when addressing mobility and planning for Bengaluru," BBPV said in the report.

The report also reminded the government to implement a promise in its manifesto. "One of the significant commitments in the Congress manifesto is that of increasing the share of public transport to 70%. We appreciate that a target for public transport mode share has appeared as an election promise, probably for the first time," the report added.

CM urges Centre to provide justice to protesting wrestlers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said it is self-deceptive on the part of the BJP government at the Centre, which is celebrating the inauguration of the Parliament building as a festival of democracy, but trying to oppress the democratic rights of the women wrestlers who are protesting against sexual harassment.

In a series of tweets, he urged the Central government to immediately arrest the Wrestling Federation of India's president and BJP MP Brij Bhushan Singh and subject him to an inquiry to provide justice to the pained women wrestlers.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

WORKS BRANCH — **MADURAI DIVISION**

TENDER NOTICE No: MDU-W-10-2023 DATED: 26.05.2023

e-tenders are invited for the following works by the Divisional Railway Manager / Works/Southern Railway / Madurai Tender closing date for Item **No.1 to 7** on **19.06.2023** at **14.00 hrs.**

Sl. No.	Name of Work	App. Value ₹ in lakhs	EMD ₹	Period of Completion
1	Sr.DEN/South/MDU Jurisdiction: Provision of Additional PF shelter 2 bays at MEJ, RJPM & RVS (3 stations) and 3 bays at TTL, AWT, KCHV, ASD & SNKL (5 stations)	260.21	280100	6 Months
2	(SW I):-Kudal Nagar Goods yard:- Proposed standardization of formation at isolated locations for a length of 3.353 km including retaining wall. (SW II):- Senior Section Engineer / Permanent way / BG / Madurai sec:- Proposed strengthening of existing formation by providing pitching over the existing slope of the embankement at isolated locations for a length of 2709 meters between Km. 492.600 to 491.600	468.45	384200	9 Months
3	Proposed Improvements and standardisation of Level Crossing in SSE / Pway / VPT section in ADEN / South / MDU Jurisdiction.	131.36	215700	6 Months
4	Proposed Improvements and standardisation of level crossing and supply of Engineering indicators in SSE / P.Way/TN, TEN & SVV sections in ADEN / Tirunelveli Sub Division.	230.68	265300	8 Months
5	Madurai Division: Proposed Collection and supply of 50mm machine crushed stone ballast at SEYDUNGANALLUR DEPOT including loading into Railway wagons, unloading and spreading in connection with various track works in Senior Section Engineer / Permanent Way / Srivaikuntam & Tirunelveli Section.	152.59	226300	5 Months
6	Tiruchchirappalli - Dindigul Section:- Through turnout Renewal (FS+TWS+CMSC) 1 in 12 (60kg) - 15 sets at isolated locations in Senior Section Engineer / Permanent Way / Manaparai (10sets) and Senior Section Engineer / Permanent Way / Dindugul section (5sets)	72.14	144300	12 Months
7	Kallidaikurichi : Provision of PF shelter 2 Bays at 3 location	60.68	121400	4 Months

(Items 07 only)

Further details are available in detail on website **https://www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderer(s) / Contractor(s) to apply for e-tender for works in Madurai Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only online tenders will be accepted.

It is the responsibility of the tenderer to check any Corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in the website, the same shall be taken into account while submitting Tender.

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E-TENDER NOTICE No: RWF/M/OT/MRS/2023-24/04 dtd. 24/05/2023

E-TENDER :- On behalf of the President of India, the Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer invites electronic tender for the following work online through the website http://www.ireps.gov.in (Works)

Sl. No.	Tender No	Name of the Work
1	RWF/M/OT/ MRS/2023-24/04/ RT dtd. 24/05/2023	Machining of retainers/retaining rings (Cope Retainers, Cope Retaining Rings and Drag Retainers), Supply and Fixing of new Wear Plates, Bottom Plates as per RWF drawings

Estimated Cost in Rs.12,89,150/-, Earnest Money Deposit: Rs.25,800/-, Date & Time of Closing of Tenders:15/06/2023 at 15.30 Hrs, Completion Period: 18 Months. This tender notice can be viewed on our website "www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in".

DY. Chief Mechanical Engineer / Mfg.

REGIONAL AYURVEDA RESEARCH INSTITUTE, VIJAYAWADA

(Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India)
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Walk-in-Interview

The following interviews will be held for the engagement of the posts of Senior Research Fellow (Ayurveda) on contract basis for the project work titled "Tolerability, Treatment Adherence, and Safety of Drakshavaleha in the Management of Iron Deficiency Anemia: An Open Label Single Arm Clinical Study" under the SMART Programme. Details are given below:

Name of the Post	Place of Posting & No. of Post	Eligibility Criteria, Age and Remuneration (fixed)	Date and Time of Interview	Venue of Interview**
Senior Research Fellow(Ay.)	Institute of Ayurveda and Integrative Medicine (I-AIM) Healthcare Centre,74/2, Jarakabande Kaval, Behind CRPF Camp, Attur Post, Ramagondanahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560064. Number of Post-1*	**Essential:** B.A.M.S Degree from any recognized University and Knowledge of Computer applications such as MS Office etc. **Desirable:** 1. M.D.(Ay.)/M.S (Ay.) 2.Preference will be given to those who possess higher qualification or who have previous Research experience i.e. having worked for any research project funded by the Ministry of AYUSH,ICMR, CSIR, DST or equivalent organization. 3.Skills of drafting, editing of scientific documents/articles/ technical reports etc. 4.Publication in peer reviewed journals. 5.Working knowledge of computer applications. **Age Limit :** Not exceeding 35 years (Age relaxation as per Govt. of India rule) as on **01-01-2023**. **Remuneration : Rs.35,000/- + HRA**	05.06.2023 09.00 AM	Meeting Hall, (I-AIM) Healthcare Centre, 74/2, Jarakabande Kaval, Behind CRPF Camp, Attur Post, Ramagondanahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560064.
	KAHER'S Shri B.M. Kankanawadi Ayurveda Mahavidyalaya, Shahapur, Belgavi, Karnataka- 590003. Number of Post-1*		06.06.2023 09.00 AM	KLE Ayurveda Hospital Meeting Hall, Shahapur, Belagavi.
	Sri Sri College of Ayurvedic Science and Research, 21st km, Kanakapura Road, Udayapura Post, Banglore-560082,Karnataka. Number of Post-1*		06.06.2023 09.00 AM	Sri Sri College of Ayurvedic Science and Research, 21st km, Kanakapura Road, Udayapura post, Banglore-560082, Karnataka
	Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara College of Ayurveda &Hospital, Tanniruhalla, BM Road, Hassan-573201, Karnataka. Number of Post-1*		14.06.2023 09.00 AM	Sri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara College of Ayurveda & Hospital, Tanniruhalla, BM Road, Hassan-573201, Karnataka.

* Number of posts may vary.
** The Candidates reaching the concerned institute may either contact the office or follow the notice board in case of confusion regarding the venue.

For further information and the biodata form please see the CCRAS website **www.ccras.nic.in**

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I Mridhula Polur alias Mrudula R Polur D/o S Raghunath , residing at 27, Matru Spoorthi , 8th Main Road, Shankarnagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560096, have changed my name to Mridhula Polur for all purposes in future

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME
I, MANASEE Arun Rairikar W/O Shantanu Balkrishna Deshmukh born on 13–04–1977 residing at Tata Aquila Vega Flat No.6A, HMT main road, Jalahalli, Bangalore North, Karnataka –560013, have changed my name to Manasi Shantanu Deshmukh vide affidavit dated 22–05–2023 at Bangalore.

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JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is being issued jointly by the company **Pupil Finance Private Limited("The Company"), Mr.Pankaj Bhandari(The Transferee - Acquirer) and Mr. Saurabh Tarachand Jain, Mr. Ashish Mehtaand Mr. Praveen Devendranath Hassan(collectively the sellers / transferors).**

Background

Pupil Finance Private Limited, a Company registered under the Companies Act, 2013, vide CIN: U65990KA2019PTC120350 dated 14-01-2019, issued by Registrar of Companies, Karnataka, Bangalore, and having its Registered Office at #108 Maxworth Mansions 4th Floor Lalbagh Fort Road Near Minerva Circle, Mavalli Bangalore 560004 and having certificate of Registration No.N-02-00315NBFC ND Type II, dated 21-06-2019 (Non-banking financial institution without accepting public deposits) issued by the Reserve Bank of India, Bangalore, and authorized by Board of Directors of the Company, vide their resolution dated 18-05-2023 hereby give notice about the intention to sell / transfer of ownership / control of the company by sale of shares of all the Shareholders (hereinafter referred to as "the transferors") in the following proportion.(Together the proposed transaction)

Sl. NO	Name of the existing shareholders	Current shareholding	No of shares Proposed to be transferred	Name of the transferee	Current shareholding	Shareholding post-acquisition of the shares
1.	Pankaj Bhandari Existing Shareholder)	400500	No Change	Pankaj Bhandari	400500	400500
2.	Ashish Mehta	788700	788700	Pankaj Bhandari	400500	1189200
3.	Praveen Devendranath Hassan	525000	525000	Pankaj Bhandari	1189200	1714200
4.	Saurabh Tarachand Jain	715500	715500	Pankaj Bhandari	1714200	2429700
5.	Rohit Goutamchand Existing Shareholder	240300	No Change	Rohit Goutamchand Existing Shareholder	240300	240300
	Total	2670000	2029200			2670000

Upon consummation of the transaction, **Mr. Pankaj Bhandari** an Indian inhabitant, the key purchaser will be acquiring the above shares and shall acquire full control of the company and therefore in this connection, hereby give notice about the intention to acquire the above mentioned Company by purchasing 91% of the shares of the Company (hereinafter referred to as "the transferee").He along with Mr. Rohit Goutamchand (Existing Shareholder) holding 9% of the share capital of the company will run and operate the company henceforth along with other professional Directors. **Mr. Rohit Goutamchand, Mr. Pankaj Bhandari, Mr. Swamidas Prasanna Kumar and Mr. Gopala Reddy** will be the Directors of the company.

The reason for such sale / transfer of ownership / control by the transferor is to exit from the non-core activity of NBFC and to concentrate on other core activity/ business. The purpose of acquiring the above Company by the transferee is to carry on the activity of an NBFC.

The proposed transaction will enable the company to leverage the expertise of the acquirer in the financial service domain for further growth of the company.

In connection with above the company had made an application to the Reserve Bank of India, Department of Supervision, Regulatory Services Section Regional Office Nrupatunga Road Bangalore – 560 001 and the Reserve Bank of India had vide their letter BLR.DOS.No.S 365/01.02.227/2023-24 dated May 17,2023 accorded their approval for the same.

Further the name of the company is proposed to be changed from PUPIL FINANCE PRIVATE LIMITED to CAPUP FINANCIAL SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED or such other name as may be approved by the registrar of companies, Karnataka. Reserve Bank has approved the same vide their letter Dos (BG) No. S 2160/01.02.227/2022-23 dated February 22, 2023.

If anybody has any objection in respect of the above-mentioned sale / transfer of ownership / control, and to the aforesaid name change of the Company, may lodge objection, if any, with full particulars and supporting documents with the Company at its Registered office and to Reserve Bank of India, Department of Supervision, Regulatory Services Section Regional Office Nrupatunga Road Bangalore – 560001 within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.

This notice is being given pursuant to Para 64 of the Reserve Bank of India Master Direction DNBR.PD.007/03.10.119/2016-2017 dated September 01,2016 (updated from time to time) on "Non-banking Financial Company – Non systematically Important Non deposit taking company (Reserve Bank) Directions 2016" and other relevant regulations.

Sd/-	For Company	Sd/-
Transferee	Pupil Finance Private Limited	Transferors
Pankaj Bhandari	Sd/-	Ashish Mehta
Date: 27-05-2023	SaurabhTarachand Jain	Praveen Devendranath Hassan
Place: Bangalore	Director - DIN: 07850589	SaurabhTarachand Jain

Antarctic alarm bells over slowing down of 'overturning circulation'

Antarctica drives a network of ocean currents that redistributes heat, carbon and nutrients around the globe. There are signs this circulation is slowing down decades earlier than predicted, with profound consequences for the earth's climate, sea level, and marine life.

Kathy Gunn
Matthew England
Steve Rintoul

EXPLAINER

Antarctica sets the stage for the world's greatest waterfall. The action takes place beneath the surface of the ocean. Here, trillions of tonnes of cold, dense, oxygen-rich water cascade off the continental shelf and sink to great depths. This Antarctic "bottom water" then spreads north along the sea floor in deep ocean currents, before slowly rising, thousands of kilometres away.

In this way, Antarctica drives a global network of ocean currents called the "overturning circulation" that redistributes heat, carbon and nutrients around the globe. The overturning is crucial to keeping Earth's climate stable. It's also the main way oxygen reaches the deep ocean.

But there are signs this circulation is slowing down and it's happening decades earlier than predicted. This slowdown has the potential to disrupt the connection between the Antarctic coasts and the deep ocean, with profound consequences for Earth's climate, sea level and marine life.

Our new research, published today in the journal *Nature Climate Change*, uses real-world observations to decipher how and why the deep ocean around Antarctica has changed over the past three decades. Our measurements show the overturning circulation has slowed by almost a third (30%) and deep ocean oxygen levels are declining. This is happening even earlier than climate models predicted.

We found melting of Antarctic ice is disrupting the formation of Antarctic bottom water. The meltwater makes Antarctic surface waters fresher, less dense, and therefore less likely to sink. This puts the brakes on the overturning circulation.

A view of the waters off the Antarctic landmass. TORSTEN DEDERICHS/UNSPLASH

Why does this matter?

As the flow of bottom water slows, the supply of oxygen to the deep ocean declines. The shrinking oxygen-rich bottom water layer is then replaced by warmer waters that are lower in oxygen, further reducing oxygen levels.

Ocean animals, large and small, respond to even small changes in oxygen. Deep-ocean animals are adapted to low oxygen conditions but still have to breathe. Losses of oxygen may cause them to seek refuge in other regions or adapt their behaviour. Models suggest we are locked in to a contraction of the "viable" environment available to these animals with an expected decline of up to 25%.

Slowdown of the overturning may also intensify global warming. The overturning circulation carries carbon dioxide and heat to the deep ocean, where it is stored and hidden from the atmosphere. As the ocean storage capacity is reduced, more carbon dioxide and heat are left in the atmosphere. This feedback accelerates global warming.

Reductions in the amount of Antarctic bottom water reaching the ocean floor also increases sea levels because the warmer water that replaces it takes up more space (thermal expansion).

Signs of a worrying change

Making observations of bottom water is challenging. The Southern Ocean is remote and home to the strongest winds and biggest waves on the planet. Access is also restricted by sea ice during winter, when bottom water forms.

This means observations of the deep Southern Ocean are sparse. Nevertheless, repeated full-depth measurements taken from ship voyages have provided glimpses into the changes underway in the deep ocean. The bottom water layer is getting warmer, less dense and thinner.

Satellite data shows the Antarctic ice sheet is shrinking. Ocean measurements taken downstream of regions of rapid melt show the meltwater is reducing the salinity (and density) of coastal waters.

These signs point to a worrying change, but there are still no direct observations of the deep overturning circulation.

> More ice loss will mean more freshening, so we can anticipate the slowdown in circulation and deep oxygen losses will continue.

What did the scientists do?

We combined different types of observations in a new way, taking advantage of each of their strengths.

The full-depth measurements collected by ships provide snapshots of ocean density, but are usually repeated about once a decade. Moored instruments, on the other hand, provide continuous measurements of density and speed, but only for a limited time at a particular location. We developed a new approach that combines ship data, mooring records, and a high resolution numerical simulation to calculate the strength of Antarctic bottom water flow and how much oxygen it transports to the deep ocean. Our study focused on a deep basin south of Australia that receives bottom water from several sources. These sources lie downstream of large meltwater inputs, so this region is likely to provide an early warning of climate-induced deep ocean changes.

The findings are striking. Over three decades, between 1992 and 2017, the overturning circulation of this region slowed by almost a third (30%) causing less oxygen to reach the deep. This slowing was caused by freshening close to Antarctica. We found this freshening reduces the density and volume of Antarctic bottom water formed, as well as the speed at which it flows.

The observed slowdown would have been even greater if not for a short-lived climate event that drove a partial and temporary recovery of bottom water formation. The recovery, driven by increased salinity, further illustrates the sensitivity of bottom water formation to salinity changes on the Antarctic continental shelf. Worryingly, these observations show that changes predicted to occur by 2050 are already underway.

What next?

Ice loss from Antarctica is expected to continue, even accelerate, as the world warms. We are almost certain to cross the 1.5 degree Celsius global warming threshold by 2027. More ice loss will mean more freshening, so we can anticipate the slowdown in circulation and deep oxygen losses will continue.

The consequences of a slowdown will not be limited to Antarctica. The overturning circulation extends throughout the global ocean and influences the pace of climate change and sea level rise. It will also be disruptive and damaging for marine life.

Our research provides yet another reason to work harder - and faster - to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

(Kathy Gunn, CSIRO; Matthew England is Scientia Professor and deputy director of the ARC Australian Centre for Excellence in Antarctic Science, UNSW Sydney; and Steve Rintoul is CSIRO Fellow, CSIRO. This article is republished from The Conversation.*)*

THE GIST

Ocean animals, large and small, respond to even small changes in oxygen. Deep-ocean animals are adapted to low oxygen conditions but still have to breathe. Losses of oxygen may cause them to seek refuge in other regions or adapt their behaviour. Models suggest we are locked in to a contraction of the "viable" environment available to these animals with an expected decline of up to 25%.

Melting of Antarctic ice is disrupting the formation of Antarctic bottom water. The meltwater makes Antarctic surface waters fresher, less dense, and therefore less likely to sink. This puts the brakes on the overturning circulation.

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BIG SHOT

The Yenakiyeve Iron and Steel Works in the Donetsk region. Experts have said that locating green-hydrogen facilities next to steel plants could wean the latter – a sector that emits 7% of the world's carbon – away from fossil fuels. REUTERS/ALEXANDER ERMOCHENKO.

WHAT IS IT?

Gravitational waves: ripples in space-time produced by the universe's celestial phenomena

Since time immemorial, humans have looked up at the universe and pondered its secrets. In the past few centuries, many of these secrets have started to unravel. One such mystery we began to pry apart very recently is the gravitational wave. Gravitational waves are ripples in space-time produced by some of the most intense phenomena in our universe.

In 1915, Albert Einstein's theory of relativity predicted the existence of gravitational waves. According to this theory, celestial objects such as black holes and neutron stars could send gravitational energy thrumming through the fabric of space-time in every direction, moving off at the speed of light.

Six decades later, in 1974, two scientists discovered two dead stars orbiting each other. After extensive research, they found that the stars were slowly moving towards one another at the exact rate predicted by the theory — a sign that they were losing energy in the form of gravitational waves.

These waves contain information about the events that emitted them, so studying them can give scientists a glimpse of distant cosmic affairs.

To study them, scientists developed the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatories (LIGO) in 1999. They directly observed gravitational waves for the first time in 2015, proving Einstein's theory. A third LIGO will be built in India this decade.

—Arkatapa Basu

A black hole. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

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MONDAY, MAY. 29	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:42
RISE 13:43	SET 01:32
TUESDAY, MAY. 30	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:42
RISE 14:29	SET 02:07
WEDNESDAY, MAY. 31	
RISE 05:53	SET 18:42
RISE 15:18	SET 02:43

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	27
Mysuru	35	22
Bengaluru	32	22

Bengaluru Today
34°C The weather will be little warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower is likely to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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'Sports is no place for sexual harassment'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sportswomen, including swimmer Nisha Millet and athlete Reeth Abraham, condemned the treatment of protesting women wrestlers at Delhi, and were joined by historian and author Ramachandra Guha and writers Amandeep Sandhu and Sharda Ugra in demanding justice for the wrestlers at a solidarity event at Freedom Park here on Sunday.

"The manner in which our Olympic stars were dragged and bundled up is a shame. They are the nation's pride and politicians who enter sports should develop sports and not indulge in sexual harassment. Sports is no place for such things and perpetrators should be booked immediately," said Ms. Millet.

Mr. Guha said, "The wrestlers were protesting for a genuine reason and it was absolutely peaceful. But the paranoid, fearful and insecure government, instead of protecting the athletes, is protecting the perpetrators."

THE HINDU
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Incomplete SWD works leave citizens with a flood of worries

BBMP has not been able to expeditiously carry out remodelling and construction of new drains owing to various factors

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Just 45% of storm-water drain works in Bengaluru has been completed ahead of monsoon. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

As the countdown to the monsoon has begun, and with the horrors of a city not prepared for the rains exposed during the pre-monsoon season already, residents in flood-prone areas fear a repeat of the 2022 deluge. With just 45% of storm-water drain (SWD) works completed ahead of monsoon, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has not been able to expeditiously carry out remodelling and construction of new drains due to litigation, delay in payments to contractors, resistance from errant residents, and the Assembly polls.

Rain Ready?

For instance, at Aeronautical Engineers' Cooperative Society Layout (AECS) in Marathahalli, the civic body has halted building of a SWD after a property owner secured a stay from the court.

At Sri Sai Layout in Horamavu too, works are pending owing to the non-release of payment and in Rainbow Drive Layout (RBD), off Sarjapur road, the residents' welfare association is reluctant to allow construction of a drain inside the gated community.

According to sources in the BBMP, the situation in over 100 places in the tech city is no different.

After rain wreaked havoc in September, 2022, the SWD wing of the civic body identified about 209 vulnerable places, where there was a need for remodelling or construction of new and parallel drains.

Basavaraj Kabade, Chief Engineer (SWD), BBMP, speaking to *The Hindu* said, "Of the 209 identified locations, we could resolve issues in little over 84 places. The BBMP is making all efforts to address the challenges." He added that removing silt from existing drains, which is a routine affair, is being carried out promptly.

However, sources in the BBMP say that silt removal is also pending in many flood-prone areas. The Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre has identified 226 flood-prone areas, of which some areas witness deluge with just 1 cm of rainfall. With SWD works delayed or poorly executed in some places, these areas would certainly flood again, sources added.

Indira B., a resident of AECS Layout, said the partially completed SWD here poses more threat. "As no one is currently maintaining the drain, sewage water is let into the same, even as some are dumping waste into it. If it rains heavily, the water accumulating in the drain has no place to flow, due to which rainwater may enter homes and apartment basements," she said.

A resident from RBD said while the BBMP has completed a parallel drain on the outside of the layout, the SWD which was being constructed from the Halanayakanahalli lake was stopped by the residents' welfare association. The drain was stopped near an empty site located east of the gated community. During rain, the water flowing through that drain will accumulate at the site thereby possibly flooding the RBD. According to the revenue map, the drain has to cut across RBD and meet the parallel drain.

The BBMP, after a brief hiatus, resumed the anti-encroachment drive about three days ago. The data shared by the BBMP shows that so far, 2,167 encroachments have been removed since 2016. The total number of encroachments identified is 2,951. In 2023 till April, 88 encroachments were removed. The BBMP is yet to remove 784 illegal structures, mostly sitting on rajakaluves.

A major impediment for razing is petitions in the court. About 118 encroachments are pending due to court-related matters. A BBMP official said the civic body is working hard to clear all encroachments, but work may stop on days when it rains heavily.

Fact sheet

Details of encroachments removed	
2016-17	427
2018-19	1,480
2022	172
2023	88
Encroachments yet to be removed	784
Impediments to removal of encroachments	
Not removed due to court-related matters	118
Not in SWD	39
Shift in drain's alignment	20
Lease by BBMP	3
Balance encroachments to be removed	607

Elderly woman found murdered at home

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An 82-year-old woman was found murdered at her house at Nagapura in Mahalakshmi Layout on Saturday.

The deceased was identified as Kamalamma. The police said that she was living alone after the death of her husband, while her three children were married and living separately.

The murder came to light on Saturday evening, when neighbors noticed no lights in the house of Kamalamma and went to check. They found her hands and legs tied and her mouth gagged. The police rushed to the spot and shifted the body for post-mortem.

Going by an initial probe, it was revealed that the assailants were known to Kamalamma and gained entry without much struggle. said the police.

The accused had robbed the valuables she was wearing and also ransacked the house to look for other valuables, according to the police.

The police have verified the CCTV camera footage from in and around the area and formed five special teams to track down the assailants.

MAHARASHTRA JEEVAN PRADHIKARAN

e-Tender Notice 08 for 2023-24

M.J.P. invites e-tender notice for the work of "Providing and constructing R.C.C. Elevated Service Reservoir at various locations in Ambernath & Badlapur cities, providing, lowering, laying and jointing leading main, rising mains of various dia in Ambernath & Badlapur Under Aug. to Ambernath-Badlapur Water Supply Scheme" Tal. Ambernath, Dist. Thane in the State of Maharashtra, valued at **Rs.15,87,93,421/-** (Rs. Fifteen Crores Eighty Seven Lakh Ninety Three Thousand Four Hundred Twenty One Only) The e-Tender details are available on www.mahatenders.gov.in from dated 29/05/2023.

All relevant dates will be as per the tender published in web portal **www.mahatenders.gov.in**

Place:- Ambernath
Date :- 19/05/2023

sd/-
Executive Engineer,
MJPWM Dn.,Ambernath

DGIPR/2023-2024/995

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

TRIVANDRUM (GATI SHAKTI UNIT)

E-TENDER NOTICE No. TVC / GSU / 7 / 2023

Dated: 26.05.2023

For and on behalf of the President of India, The Chief Project Manager / Gati Shakti / Trivandrum Division, Trivandrum-14 invites online tenders for the following works as per tender notice given in our e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderer(s) / contractor(s) to apply for e-tender for WORKS in Trivandrum Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Approx. Value ₹ in lakh	Earnest Money Deposit ₹	Period of Completion in Months
1	Construction of 2 bays of Cover Over Platform of IRS type at **Nagercoil Jn.** (NCJ) and **Kulithurai** (KZT) railway stations under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme Phase I constructions	**51.34**	**102700.00**	**12 Months**
2	Construction of 2 bays of Cover Over Platform of IRS type at **Alappuzha** (ALLP), **Chirayankeezh** (CRY) and **Neyyattinkara** (NYY) railway stations under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme Phase I constructions	**77.02**	**154100.00**	**12 Months**
Tender Closing date and time		**Sl No.: 1 to 2 : 19.06.2023 at 11.00 hrs**		

Details approximate value of tender, EMD & location are given on the e-portal, **www.ireps.gov.in.** For Details of bid submission, please refer website portal **www.ireps.gov.in**

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STANDALONE AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR / AS ON QUARTER / YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2023 (₹ in crore)

Particulars	Quarter Ended 31.03.2023 (Audited)	Quarter Ended 31.12.2022 (Reviewed)	Quarter Ended 31.03.2022 (Audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2023 (Audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2022 (Audited)
Total income from operations (net)	**2,364.54**	**2,055.31**	**1,835.68**	**8,212.81**	**7,175.54**
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax, exceptional and / or extraordinary items)	**432.50**	**367.00**	**284.21**	**1,441.04**	**694.56**
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional and / or extraordinary items)	**432.50**	**367.00**	**284.21**	**1,441.04**	**694.56**
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional and / or extraordinary items)	**353.75**	**300.68**	**130.35**	**1,180.24**	**508.62**
Equity Share Capital	**312.35**	**311.95**	**311.17**	**312.35**	**311.17**
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	**7,390.57**		**6,324.61**	**7,390.57**	**6,324.61**
Securities Premium Account	**1,260.80**	**1,258.97**	**1,255.97**	**1,260.80**	**1,255.97**
Net worth	**7,702.92**	**7,345.55**	**6,635.78**	**7,702.92**	**6,635.78**
Paid up Debt Capital/ Outstanding Debt	**1,020.00**	**1,020.00**	**1,270.00**	**1,020.00**	**1,270.00**
Capital Redemption Reserve/ Debenture Redemption Reserve	**Nil**	**Nil**	**Nil**	**Nil**	**Nil**
Outstanding Redeemable preference share	**Nil**	**Nil**	**Nil**	**Nil**	**Nil**
Debt Equity Ratio	**0.18**	**0.18**	**0.15**	**0.18**	**0.15**
Earnings Per Share (of Rs 10/- each)					
Basic:	**11.33***	**9.65***	**4.19***	**37.88**	**16.36**
Diluted:	**11.27***	**9.60***	**4.17***	**37.66**	**16.29**

*Not annualized.

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of period ended results for March 31, 2023 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the results for March 31, 2023 is available on the Stock Exchange websites. BSE: https://www.bseindia.com, NSE: https://www.nseindia.com, Bank website: https://www.karnatakabank.com/index.jsp

CONSOLIDATED AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR / AS ON QUARTER / YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2023 (₹ in crore)

Particulars	Quarter Ended 31.03.2023 (Audited)	Quarter Ended 31.12.2022 (Reviewed)	Quarter Ended 31.03.2022 (Audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2023 (Audited)	Year Ended 31.03.2022 (Audited)
Total income from operations (net)	**2,364.54**	**2,055.31**	**1,835.76**	**8,212.81**	**7,175.54**
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before tax, exceptional and / or extraordinary items)	**432.28**	**366.95**	**284.06**	**1,440.48**	**693.93**
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after exceptional and / or extraordinary items.)	**432.28**	**366.95**	**284.06**	**1,440.48**	**693.93**
Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after exceptional and / or extraordinary items)	**353.53**	**300.63**	**130.20**	**1,179.68**	**507.99**
Equity Share Capital	**312.35**	**311.95**	**311.17**	**312.35**	**311.17**
Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	**7,389.27**		**6,323.87**	**7,389.27**	**6,323.87**
Securities Premium Account	**1,260.80**	**1,258.97**	**1,255.97**	**1,260.80**	**1,255.97**
Net worth	**7,701.62**	**7,344.48**	**6,635.04**	**7,701.62**	**6,635.04**
Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	**1,020.00**	**1,020.00**	**1,270.00**	**1,020.00**	**1,270.00**
Capital Redemption Reserve/ Debenture Redemption Reserve	**Nil**	**Nil**	**Nil**	**Nil**	**Nil**
Outstanding Redeemable preference share	**Nil**	**Nil**	**Nil**	**Nil**	**Nil**
Debt Equity Ratio	**0.18**	**0.18**	**0.15**	**0.18**	**0.15**
Earnings Per Share (of Rs 10/- each)					
Basic:	**11.33***	**9.65***	**4.19***	**37.87**	**16.36**
Diluted:	**11.26***	**9.60***	**4.17***	**37.64**	**16.29**

*Not annualized.

Note: The above is an extract of the detailed format of period ended results for March 31, 2023 filed with the Stock Exchange under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.The full format of the results for March 31, 2023 is available on the Stock Exchange websites. BSE: https://www.bseindia.com, NSE: https://www.nseindia.com, Bank website: https://www.karnatakabank.com/index.jsp

Place : Mangaluru
Date : 26.05.2023

For and on behalf of Board of Directors
Sd/- Sekhar Rao
Managing Director & CEO (Interim)

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The fall of the Bank of Maharashtra's net non-performing assets

0.25 In percentage. The Bank of Maharashtra has emerged as the top performer in bad loan management. It was followed by the HDFC Bank with its net NPA falling to 0.27%. PTI

The share of UPI transactions in retail payments by 2026-27

90 In percentage. UPI transactions are likely to reach one billion per day by 2026-27, as per a report by PwC India. UPI accounted for about 75% of transactions in the retail segment in 2022-23. PTI

The excess SIM cards deactivated in Bihar and Jharkhand

17,000 More than 2.30 lakh mobile numbers in Bihar and Jharkhand have been deactivated in April and May by the Department of Telecommunications. PTI

The armed militants killed by security forces: CM Biren Singh

40 militants. The CM said this in the backdrop of fresh clashes breaking out between armed groups and security forces in Manipur. He said that many Kuki militants have been captured by the Jat regiment. PTI

The number of IPL games in which Ambati Rayudu played

203 games. The Chennai Super Kings player who had retired from international cricket announced the IPL final will be his last game in the league. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Why is the 1.5 degree Celsius target critical?

What do the recent reports by the World Meteorological Organization say about the future of climate change? Why did international climate dialogues switch from the target of 2 degree Celsius above the baseline temperature of pre-industrial levels to 1.5 degree Celsius?

EXPLAINER

Rashmi Ramesh
Akriti Sharma

The story so far:

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) released two reports titled "Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update 2023-2027" and "State of Global Climate 2022." The decadal predictions of the WMO said that the annual mean global surface temperature between 2023 and 2027 will be 1.1-1.8 degree Celsius higher than the baseline temperature of 1850-1900 or pre-industrial levels. In 2022, it was 1.15 degrees above the baseline, and by 2027, the average will exceed 1.5 degrees, a critical point beyond which there may be no return.

What is the 1.5 degree Celsius target?

The 1.5 degree Celsius target is the global climate target that aims to limit warming to said level by 2100, in order to prevent the planet from slipping into further climate crises. For decades, 2 degree was an acceptable level of warming. The idea of 1.5 degree was perceived as unrealistic and unachievable. However, the 2 degree target was unacceptable to small island countries as it implied that their survival was compromised.

In 2010, at the Cancun COP16 , countries agreed to limit the global average warming to below 2 degree Celsius. In 2015, the parties to the Paris Agreement pledged to limit the average temperature rise to below 2 degree, while actively aiming for 1.5 degree above pre-industrial levels. This was endorsed as a global target by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2018 and since then has been pursued in all climate dialogues.

Why is the 1.5 degree target critical?

In 2018, the IPCC released a special report on the impact of global warming when temperature reaches 1.5 degree Celsius above baseline. It also drew a comparison with the effects of 2 degree Celsius warming. It was estimated that anthropogenic activities would have already caused 1 degree of warming, likely to reach 1.5 degree between 2030 and 2052 at the current rate. Frequent and intense heat waves, droughts, heavy precipitation, an additional 10-centimetre rise in sea level, destruction of ecosystems and mostly irreversible changes can be witnessed at the 2 degree level.

However, discussions on the average temperature rise do not imply that the current warming is uniform across the planet. For example, warming greater than the global average is being experienced in the Arctic, with the term 'polar amplification' gaining more traction. The regional differences and the vulnerability factors spell more urgency for climate action which must limit the average planetary warming to 1.5 degree.

Why are we missing the target?

Historically, developed countries are responsible for a major chunk of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Therefore, they are expected to assume more responsibility and implement climate action. However, the Climate Performance Index over the years has shown otherwise. Countries like Australia, the U.S., Japan, Russia and Canada have made little progress in meeting their pledges. Additionally, polluters like China, Iran and Saudi Arabia rank low in climate performance.

The pandemic pushed the world into a socio-economic crisis. On the road to recovery, countries pledged measures to build-back. However, in most cases there is little to no consideration for building-back in a sustainable manner. The Ukraine conflict has further added to woes and sparked an energy crisis threatening climate goals.

Are extreme weather events linked to the global rise in temperature?

The predictions of the recently released reports point to precipitation anomalies and an increase in marine heat waves as compared to marine cold spells. The El Niño, which is currently brewing, will further strengthen this year, resulting in a 98% possibility of witnessing temperatures higher than 2016 at least in one of the years in the 2023-27 period. The cryosphere is shrinking, and there is a mass loss of glaciers in High-mountain Asia, Western North America, and South America. Due to the alarming rate of warming of the Arctic Ocean, the Greenlandic ice sheet is melting at a faster pace, contributing to the increase in sea level.

Climate risks and hazards impact human population and the ecosystem depending on exposure, vulnerability, and adaptive capacity. It has exacerbated food insecurity, displacement, and deaths. Climate change has been affecting crop yield negatively and the risks posed by agricultural pests and diseases have also increased in the past few years. Countries like Ethiopia, Nigeria, South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, and Afghanistan are facing acute food shortages resulting in malnutrition and hunger, demanding urgent humanitarian assistance. However, food insecurity in these countries is due to the complex interaction of climate conditions with other factors such as droughts, cyclones, and political and economic instability.

The heatwaves in Pakistan and India in 2022 also resulted in a decline in crop yields. The floods in Pakistan affected croplands in southern and central parts of the country and displaced eight million people within the country.

The Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya) has been witnessing extreme drought conditions since 2020, while at the same time, western African countries are seeing floods and heavy rainfall which has pushed millions into acute food insecurity. Such shortage of food has also led to mass displacement within and across borders. In Syria and Yemen, thousands have been displaced owing to the floods, storms, and heavy snowfall.

Aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems have also not been immune to such changes in climate patterns. Phenological shifts and mismatches have been recorded due to climate change. The population of migratory species has declined in Sub-Saharan Africa. Additionally, the warming above 1.5 degree Celsius can prove lethal for coral reefs which are already prone to bleaching. According to the WMO, extreme weather anomalies have caused the deaths of two million people and incurred $4.3 trillion in economic damages over the past fifty years. In 2020-2021, 22,608 disaster deaths were recorded globally.

How is India impacted?

India has been increasingly facing the brunt of climate change. February 2023 was recorded as the hottest month since record-keeping began in 1901. In 2022, India witnessed extreme weather events for 80% of the days. Indian monsoons were wetter than usual last year after recording extreme heat during the pre-monsoon period, resulting in wildfires in Uttarakhand and acute food shortages.

According to the Climate Change Performance Index 2023, India ranked eighth with a high-performance after Denmark, Sweden, Chile, and Morocco. Being an emerging economy with development needs, it is attempting to balance its development needs with ongoing climate action both at the domestic and international levels. With domestic measures like the Green Hydrogen Mission and the introduction of green bonds, India is performing fairly well despite contributing only a miniscule to cumulative GHG emissions. At the international level, through the International Solar Alliance and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, India can prove to be a responsible climate player keeping in mind that it has a long way to go in very little time.

The writers are doctoral scholars at the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru.

Intense heat: A man crosses the dry and cracked bed of the Koparli dam in Peth Taluka village, Nashik, Maharashtra on May 26. GETTY IMAGES

According to the WMO, extreme weather anomalies have caused the deaths of two million people and incurred $4.3 trillion in economic damages over the past fifty years

THE GIST

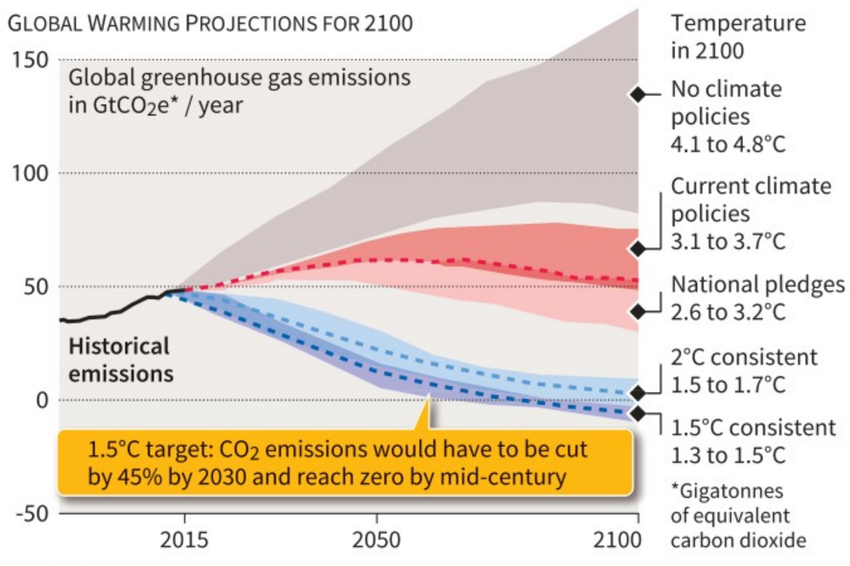
The decadal predictions of the World Meteorological Organization said that the annual mean global surface temperature between 2023 and 2027 will be 1.1-1.8 degree Celsius higher than the baseline temperature of 1850-1900 or pre-industrial levels.

For decades, 2 degree was an acceptable level of warming. The idea of 1.5 degree was perceived as unrealistic and unachievable. However, the 2 degree target was unacceptable to small island countries as it implied that their survival was compromised.

Climate risks and hazards impact human population and the ecosystem depending on exposure, vulnerability, and adaptive capacity. It has exacerbated food insecurity, displacement, and deaths.

The threat of rising temperatures

In 2018, the IPCC released a report on the impact of global warming when temperature reaches 1.5 degree Celsius above the baseline temperature of pre-industrial levels. It also drew a comparison with the effects of 2 degree Celsius warming



CLIMATE IMPACTS	Rise of 1.5°C	Rise of 2°C
Arctic: Sea ice-free summer	Once per century	Once per decade
Sea level rise: Exposure to flooding in 2100	31-69 million people worldwide	32-80 million people worldwide
Extreme heat: Exposure at least once every five years	About 14% of global population	About 37% of global population
Severe drought: Increase in urban population	+350 million people worldwide	+411 million people worldwide
Status of coral reefs	70-90% lost	99% lost
Plants and animals: Species losing more than half of their range	6% of insects, 8% of plants, 4% of vertebrates	18% of insects, 16% of plants, 8% of vertebrates

Sources: IPCC, The New York Times, Reuters, The Conversation © GRAPHIC NEWS

EDUCATIONPLUS

Triggering a reaction?

While professors and students must be sensitive to the emotional needs of others in a classroom, we need to create a conducive climate where people are also free to express their views

Aruna Sankaranarayanan

College is a time of seeking and searching. As students gain deeper insights into various fields, forge bonds with different kinds of people, and craft identities as individuals, they are likely to encounter the harsher realities of life. While they may have been largely shielded from discomfiting and disturbing information in school, students gain a more adult and uncensored perspective in college.

However, given that mental health issues among young people are more widespread nowadays, should colleges offer trigger warnings before introducing disturbing topics such as caste discrimination, domestic violence, genocide, or psychiatric conditions?

I teach a hybrid course for educators who would like to upskill themselves and one of the online lectures focused on mental health issues. Before launching into a discussion, I put up a slide saying that if anyone found the content disturbing, they could take a break and return after some time. The session went smoothly though I wasn't aware if any participant needed to avail of a break.

During role play

Subsequently, during face-to-face classes with the same group, participants formed smaller groups for an assignment requiring them to write a script and perform role play.

The topic revolved around emotional and behavioural issues that crop up in a classroom. After discussing in small groups, the class reconvened and each group performed.

I didn't notice anything was amiss until the debriefing session at the end when one group confessed that it had a tough time, as two members became very emotional while recounting their own personal experiences during the discussion. Though the members felt they had a very productive exchange with each other, their role-play didn't capture the depth of their earlier discussion.

While I could have given a trigger warning at the beginning of the session, I am not sure whether this would have changed the outcome.

In an article in *The New York Times*, Katherine Rosman quotes Amna Khalid, a professor of history at Carleton College, who believes that trigger warnings are "ineffective" in addressing students' mental health concerns.

I also told the participants that, as they were all adult learners, they could have explained what had transpired before performing the role-play. This would have been an excellent opportunity for the class to practice what we had been discussing: handling socio-emotional issues in a classroom as and when they arise.

Recently, Cornell University decided that professors need not provide trigger warnings to students. In her article, Rosman reports that a member of the University's "undergraduate student assembly" framed a resolution exhorting professors to forewarn students about "traumatic content" in readings or class discussions. This was passed unopposed in the assembly.

However, when sent to the administration for approval, the President of the University vetoed it, arguing that it violated fundamental principles of "academic freedom and freedom of inquiry"; two hallmarks of a robust education.

Be sensitive

My take-home lesson is that we, as teachers, must be sensitive to our students' socioemotional needs. While we may provide trigger warnings when emotional topics are being discussed, it is not possible for teachers to anticipate, which issues will press a button each time. In classrooms, as in life, we can't always anticipate what is thrown at us.

Further, while professors and students must be sensitive to the emotional needs of others in a classroom, we need to create a conducive climate where people are also free to express their views.

A rounded education is one that exposes you to multiple viewpoints, some of which can be discomfiting. But growth and learning often result when we process and try to make sense of disturbing facts or divergent opinions.

While mental health concerns should be taken seriously and attended to, students should not equate all negative emotions with trauma.

Authentic debate, which can sometimes get heated, is an integral facet of the collegiate experience. What we need to do is agree to disagree respectfully and mindfully.

The writer is the author of Zero Limits: Things Every 20-Something Should Know. Email: arunasankara@gmail.com

Golden Jubilee

Christ University Kannada Sangha will commemorate its 50th anniversary with the publication of N. Vidyashankar's *Cinema-Kale-Samskrithi.*

Since its establishment in 1972, the Kannada Sangha has worked to nurture and preserve Kannada literature, language, and culture by supporting emerging writers, poets, and journalists.

It has published 256 works in various genres and 820 poems and organised essay writing, poetry and short story competitions and honoured eminent Kannada authors like A.N. Krishna Rao and Da.Ra. Bendre.

The Hindu Education Plus Career Counselling Fair 2023

The 21st edition of The Hindu Education Plus Career Counselling 2023 will be held at 10 locations in nine cities across Karnataka from June 3-18.

The event provides guidance on CET counselling, NEET counselling from the Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA) and guidance for UPSC aspirans apart from information on a range of courses in Arts, Science, Commerce, Law, Management and more. Entry is free and all students will receive a free book on career counselling.

The programme provides a platform to connect students and parents with experts and educational institutions and also helps students make the right decisions regarding courses and careers.

For details, contact: 9845095781 / 9448160126 / 9448871815.

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The event will be held from 9.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. Students can register at the venue from 9.00 to 9.30 a.m. or scan the QR code

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Advt No: RGCB/MSc/2023-24 May 26, 2023

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Sd/-,
Director

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4. Sugar Engineering Diploma (SED)	
5. M.Sc. Environmental Sciences	Affiliated to Satribai Phule Pune, University, Pune
6. M.Sc. Wine, Brewing & Alcohol Technology	

* The details of admission procedure are available on **Website : www.vsisugar.com**
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CACHE

REUTERS

Can China's Micron ban benefit Samsung and SK Hynix?

A large market, coupled with the absence of a prominent third player, should be an easy contest for Samsung and SK Hynix. However, the trade conflict between the U.S. and China has put the Korean duo in a tight corner

John Xavier

The latest in a series of tit-for-tat trade moves between the U.S. and China is the latter's ban on Micron Technology products in key infrastructure. Major Chinese companies are now not allowed from buying Micron Technology products.

The ban targeting the U.S. memory chipmaker comes after China's cyberspace regulator found Micron products sold in China as posing national security risks to the country. The Cyberspace Administration of China (CAC) initiated the investigation into Micron's products in early April to review China's supply chain in critical information infrastructure. The ban has now left Chinese firms scouting for an alternative memory chipmaker to source the critical component needed to build their technology.

Micron makes memory and storage chip sets that are used in flash drives, memory cards, and the computer. Memory chips are also used in data centres. These chip sets help in faster transfer of digital information and are used in automotive, electronics and telecommunication equipment.

The Chinese market is important for the U.S.-based memory chip maker as it accounts for about 10% of its annual sales in 2022 – a little over three billion dollars. Some other estimates point out that the American company has a 25% market share in China.

The memory chipmaker had anticipated some amount of disruption from China as a result of ongoing trade manoeuvres. In its 2022 annual report, it noted that China's government may restrict it from competing effectively in the country.

Korean presence

Closing the door on Micron could open a window of opportunity for Samsung and SK Hynix. The two Korean multinationals, along with Micron, are the top three memory chipmakers globally.

Among the three, Samsung has a clear lead in memory chips. It has a 43% market share in Dynamic Random-Access Memory (DRAM), and a 35% share in the NAND flash product. Its memory chip portfolio generated $55 billion in revenue in 2022. The South Korea-headquartered company continues to ride the semiconductor wave as it pushes the boundaries of memory chip technology.

The electronics major also continues investing in infrastructure to meet mid- and long-term demand in the market. In the short-term, the company plans to optimise its production as it shifts to cater to companies that operate data centres, build autonomous vehicles and provide computing power for artificial intelligence (AI). Separately, Samsung has a large memory chip making facility in China. The unit based out of the Chinese city of Xian manufactures about 40% of the company's global NAND flash production. According to government estimates, this facility accounts for about 10% of the world's NAND flash production.

On the other hand, SK Hynix, another market leader in memory chip manufacturing, has a unique position in the U.S.-China trade war as Washington gave the Korean firm a one-year exemption from U.S. restrictions on exporting advanced technologies to China. This reprieve must be seen in the context of SK Hynix's operations. The company has a large memory chip making plant in Wuxi. And, according to some estimates, production in this facility accounts to about 13% of global DRAM chips. The company also owns Intel's NAND flash memory factory based in the Chinese city of Dalian. Last year, SK Hynix generated $12 billion in revenue from sales in China while Samsung's sales touched $24 billion in the country.

Geopolitical shackles

A large market, coupled with the absence of a prominent third player, should be an easy contest for the Korean duo. But it is not. The two companies are in a tight corner as the trade conflict between the U.S. and China puts South Korea's technology firms at the centre.

In April, when the CAC initiated a review of Micron's memory products, Washington urged Seoul to not fill in the market vacuum that could result from a possible Micron ban. The U.S. had requested South Korea to coax Samsung and SK Hynix from boosting its sales to China, the *Financial Times* reported. This comes on the back of a one-year waiver it gave to South Korean firms with semiconductor fabrication units in China from selling products from the country. However, such coaxing and trade leverages could fall short at a time when the global memory chip industry is facing overcapacity and high inventories.

Since the second quarter of 2022, global NAND flash prices have fallen by up to 25%, according to research company TrendForce. The average selling price (ASP) is expected to decline further in the June ending quarter as production cuts to DRAM and NAND flash have not kept pace with weakening demand, the research firm noted in a separate blog. This decline tracks previous quarter's price drop as demand for servers, smartphones and laptops remained weak at the end of March.

Memory chip prices went sky-high at the peak of the pandemic, and then started cooling off in late 2021. Following this period, quarter-on-quarter decline got steeper due to microeconomic woes and geopolitical uncertainties.

Chinese options

While geopolitics and market dynamics play out, China may have home-grown alternatives to fill Micron's vacuum. Yangtze Memory Technologies (YMTC) makes NAND flash chips and ChangXin Memory Technologies (CXMT) makes DRAM chips. These firms are poised to fill Micron's shoes in the region.

China's large businesses may start making a connection with YMTC and CXMT to beef up their technologies as Samsung and SK Hynix choose between patriotism and business.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On May 29, 1953, 70 years ago, humans first stood atop the tallest peak on land. A quiz on the historic ascent of Mount Everest

V. V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
It is well known that Sherpa Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary were the first humans to be on top of the mountain. But who led the historic expedition?

QUESTION 2
Tenzing was an accomplished climber, having reached 28,210 feet (8,598 meters) on the Southeast Ridge in 1952 before turning back. But what was the profession of the New Zealander Hillary?

QUESTION 3
Who were Tom Bourdillon and Charles Evans?

QUESTION 4
What explanation did Hillary later give when asked why there is only the iconic photograph of Tenzing, with his flag-attached axe raised, and none of his own on the summit?

QUESTION 5
What offerings did Tenzing and Hillary leave on the summit before starting their descent after spending 15 minutes on the top?

QUESTION 6
As the two made their way down, what was Hillary's legendary greeting to teammate George Lowe?

QUESTION 7
There was an 'informal, gentleman' pact where the two record-setters agreed not to tell who stepped on the summit first. Later, Tenzing revealed in his autobiography that Hillary had in fact preceded him. Name his autobiography.

QUESTION 8
What historic event was happening on the day on which the news broke about the success on Everest?

Visual question:
On May 26, 2023, these golden statues of Hillary and Tenzing Norgay were unveiled at the Tenzing-Hillary airport. In which town is the airport located? AFP

Questions and Answers to the May 26 edition of the daily quiz: 1. This actor played Tina Turner in the 1993 biopic titled *What's Love Got to Do with It*. **Ans: Angela Bassett**
2. The song Turner, Cher and Elton John came together to perform at the New York's Beacon Theatre for VH1's Divas Live!. **Ans: 'Proud Mary'**
3. Tina Turner never had a US number 1 single. Is the statement true or false?**Ans: False.**
4. The year the singer was inducted into the rock and roll hall of fame as a solo artist. **Ans: 2021**
5. 'Steamy Windows', 'The Best', 'Undercover Agent for the Blues' are all songs from this album. **Ans: Foreign Affairs**
6. The number of Grammys Turner received. **Ans: She has eight Grammys**
Visual: This British singer-songwriter wrote Turner's hit song 'Private Dancer'. **Ans: Mark Knopfler**
Early Birds: Indra Sharma| Vaibhav Jain| Manda Kalavati

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

If this goes on, I might just jump ship

She had to deliver the envelope to the house enveloped by vines, creepers and flowers

S. Upendran

What is the meaning of 'jump ship'? (K. Ramesh, Vizag)
As the word 'ship' suggests, this is an expression that was first used in the Navy. When a sailor 'jumps ship', he gets off the vessel without getting the required permission from the person in charge. He leaves with no intention of returning.
According to the Captain, the sailor jumped ship in Singapore.
Nowadays, the expression has begun to be used in everyday contexts as well. When people realise that the company they are working for is in trouble, what do they do? Many quit and join another firm. This act of abandoning the old company because of the difficult situation it is in is called 'jumping ship'.

Is there a difference in pronunciation between 'envelope' and 'envelop'? (K. C. Anuradha, Trichy)
Yes, there is. There is not only a difference in pronunciation, but also in meaning. 'Envelope' is a noun, and 'envelop', a verb. There are different ways of pronouncing both words. Envelope is a cover in which you enclose documents; it comes in different shapes and sizes. Some people make the first syllable rhyme with 'pen', 'ten' and 'hen', and the third with 'hope', 'soap' and 'cope'. The vowel in the second syllable sounds like the 'a' in 'china'; the word is pronounced 'EN-ve-lope' with the stress on the first syllable.
When you go to the stationery shop, buy a few large envelopes.
The documents arrived this morning in a sealed envelope.
In the case of 'envelop', the first syllable is pronounced like the word 'in', while the vowel in the second sounds like the 'e' in 'bell', 'sell' and 'tell'. The final 'o' is like the 'a' in 'china'. The verb is pronounced 'in-VE-lep' with the stress on the second syllable. The word is mostly used to mean 'wrapped or surrounded by'.
In the early mornings, the woods are usually enveloped in mist.
Rain clouds enveloped the mountain.

What is the difference in meaning between 'blackout' and 'brownout'? (Rajesh Mittal, Pune)
When there is a blackout, there is no power/electricity; we cannot run any of our gadgets at home. I understand the term was first used in the world of theatre. All the lights in the auditorium, including those on stage, were switched off when the scenery between acts had to be changed. Since the auditorium was in total darkness during this period, it was called 'blackout'.
'Brownout' is a term coined by the Americans. During a brownout, there is electricity, but the voltage is rather low. This dip in voltage results in the lights burning rather dimly.
Don't use any of the electrical appliances during a brownout.
upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Feckless:
generally incompetent and ineffectual; not fit to assume responsibility

Synonym: inept

Usage: *I was watching his feckless attempts to repair the plumbing.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/fecklesspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈfɛkləs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Think this through

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This career counselling column may help

OFF THE EDGE
Nandini Raman

I am a travel writer at a renowned travel organisation in India. I want to work in organisations like the UN. Sustainability, Climate Consciousness, and Energy are the future of the travel Industry. Do you recommend any degree or career path in such arenas? Please also suggest the countries from where I can pursue these. Supriya

Dear Supriya,

To pursue a career with the UN, you have to gain experience in the specific field of interest via internships and/or entry-level jobs. Network with professionals from the industry who can help you learn about specific gaps, courses, job opportunities, and career paths. There are many credible courses available in Europe, North America, Asia, and Australia but you need to consider factors like language, culture, cost of living, and admission fees before you shortlist your degree. Based on your interests you might enjoy a degree in Environmental Sciences, Sustainable Development, or Renewable Energy. Some courses and colleges to consider are MPhil in Environmental Policy at the University of Cambridge, the U.K.; Master of Development Practice at the University of California, Berkeley, the U.S.; Master in Environmental Sciences at ETH Zurich, Switzerland; Master of Climate Change at Australian National University, Australia; Master of Science in Environmental Management at National University of Singapore, Singapore. There are many more options, so make sure that you research and identify a programme that aligns with your specific academic interest and career goals.

I am in Class 11 Science Stream. I chose Science because I like the subject but I don't know which one works for me. My Math is weak, which makes other subjects difficult. But I enjoy studying Science. So how do I find out which career option is best for me when I have no idea which subject will bring me a career that I can actually enjoy? Sania

It is okay not to know what you want to do right now. What is important is to have the courage to explore different options and understand your self, interests, and likes and then make an informed decision. Also, being weak in a subject doesn't necessarily limit your career options. Speak to a good career counsellor and identify what might be a good fit for you. Explore your interests and identify what about the Sciences you enjoy the most. Once you identify that, it will be easier to narrow down your subject options and career choices. Check out online courses across different subjects to explore as much as you can and then shortlist what you want to pursue.

I completed my B.Sc. (Hons) in Botany in 2021 from Delhi University and began preparing for Civil Services but it's not going well. After a 1.5-year break, I'm thinking about a Master's in Forensic Sciences. Is this a good idea? What are my other options? Akash

Dear Akash,

One and a half years is a very short time to pack up on your IAS dream. It is a tough gruelling process and it can easily take a few years. Pursuing a Master's in Forensic Sciences depends on your interests, goals, passion, and career aspirations. Speak to a counsellor or career specialist and ensure that this is something that you are interested in and are cut out for. I hope that this is not an exit route to the IAS prep or a Netflix-induced temporary phase. Forensic Sciences is a growing field and there is a huge demand for skilled scientists across the government, police, other law enforcement, crime labs, and research institutions. Look out for job openings and the salary component in your city to know if this will be a sustainable career option. How do you feel about courses like Biotechnology, Environmental Sciences, Agriculture, Forestry, and Science Communications? They all have good scope today. Think and work out the pros and cons and then arrive at a final decision.

I am 17 and have completed Class 12 with Physics, Chemistry, and Biology. I did not get good marks in NEET. My parents are interested in sending me to the U.K. to do my MBBS. But I am not interested in that. How can find out what I am interested in? I am thinking of doing a B.Sc. Agriculture and an MBA later. Prasuna

Dear Prasuna,

It is absolutely okay to not know your passion at your age. A Career Assessment and a Personality Profiling will help identify your strengths and interests and suggest options that match your personality. Recognise your values: what is important to you and what do you want to prioritise in your life? If you take a gap year, volunteer and intern across different fields to gain hands-on experience with different career options. Research careers online and speak and connect with professionals in different fields to learn and understand their jobs, role responsibilities, educational prerequisites, and career paths. Have you considered a Liberal Arts programme where you get the opportunity to explore different options and can eventually decide on what you want to major in? Agriculture and an MBA is also a good choice, if that interests you.

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line Off the Edge

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INBRIEF

We will show them power of Constitution: Priyank Kharge

Taking serious exception to the BJP challenging the Congress government to ban the RSS and the Bajrang Dal, Congress leader and Minister Priyank Kharge on Sunday launched a counter-attack by challenging the right-wing organisations to violate law.

"All that we have said is that we will have to take legal action if they take the law into their hands. But instead of saying that we will abide by the law, they are only challenging us to ban them. I want to tell them ... you violate the law if you have guts. Then we will show you what is the power of the Constitution prepared by Babasaheb Ambedkar," Mr. Kharge told media persons in Bengaluru.

When asked if the BJP would use the subject of the ban as an issue for the Lok Sabha polls, he taunted by saying: "Let the BJP first manage to introspect the reasons for their poll debacle." Taking serious exception to the BJP criticising the Congress government for the delay in implementation of the poll guarantees, he said, "We have already issued an order giving an in-principle clearance for implementation of the guarantees. But the BJP is yet to even elect the Leader of the Opposition."

Change of guard puts question mark on pending cost-sharing rail projects

At a time when the State government has to mop up additional revenue to implement the 'guarantee' schemes, it is unlikely to be interested in funding railway projects of long-gestation period whose return on investments is also questionable

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

The derailment of the BJP government in the State following the electoral debacle has put a question mark on a slew of pending railway projects, which were to be taken up on a cost-sharing basis between the Centre and the State.

And at a time when the Congress government has to mop up additional revenue to implement its 'guarantee' schemes, which has been pegged at ₹65,000 crore annually, it is unlikely that the government would be interested in funding projects of long-gestation period whose return on investments is also questionable. As on date, there are more than 20 sanctioned projects on paper or their work is in various stages of progress and some of them have a 50% cost-sharing rider built into them.

There are more than 20 sanctioned projects on paper or their work is in various stages of progress and some of them have a 50% cost-sharing rider built into them. M.A. SRIRAM

In case of the Shivamoggga-Shikaripur-Ranebennur line, which is one such cost-sharing project, the Railways awarded engineering procurement and construction tender in February this year for the first phase of the works to lay 46-km new line at a cost of nearly ₹455 crore based on the State guarantee.

The second phase of the same project to lay another 43-km railway line at an additional cost of ₹440 crore will be taken up after the State government hands over the land. With the Congress announcing a freeze on works sanctioned during the BJP rule, the project is bound to be delayed.

Lack of land

The Shivamogga-Harihar line is another project on paper expected to cost ₹832.47 crore with the State having to bear 50% of the cost besides providing land for free. The project is yet to make any physical progress for lack of land though it was sanctioned in 2011-12.

So is the case with Whitefield-Kolar 52.9-km new line to be taken up on a cost-sharing basis. The anticipated cost is ₹349 crore with other stipulations of meeting 50% cost and providing free land and the physical progress of the project, approved in 2011-12, is nil.

Some of the projects – though approved – are on paper only and have not moved an inch as land has not been transferred to the Railways. Given the present exigencies, the new government in the State cannot be expected to accord any importance to projects unless they were critical for freight transport, revenue generation and mass transportation when resource mobilisation for other schemes are of paramount importance, according to sources.

An example of such a project is the Hejjala-Chamarajanagar railway line entailing a new line of 142 km. It was touted to be an alternative line connecting Bengaluru with Chamarajanagar besides connecting Malavalli and Kollegal and bringing vast swathe of Bengaluru Rural and Mandya under the railway network. Though sanctioned in 1997-98, the physical progress after more than 25 years after approval, is nil. It is unlikely that the present State government will revive it at all as the present cost has been pegged at ₹1,383 crore.

CM asks Ministers to solve people's problems at local level

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Keeping an eye on the next year's general elections, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday instructed the Ministers to discharge their responsibilities by addressing the grievances of their constituencies and districts.

"It is our responsibility to provide a pro-people administration according to their expectations. Listen to people's problems. Take steps to solve problems locally and prevent people from running from pillar to post even for small works. People should not be made to come to the State Secretariat to get their work done," he said in a press release.

"We should win at least 20 Lok Sabha constituencies as a gift to party national president M. Mallikarjun Kharge and seniors Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and Priyanka Gandhi," the Chief Minister said.

"The situation is just right to end the misrule of the Centre through Karnataka. We must not forget this. Therefore, the Ministers should travel in their districts extensively. Problems should be solved at district and taluk level," he said.

He also asked the Ministers to keep a strict vigil on officers and fight against corruption.

Mr. Siddaramaiah told his Ministers to take steps to ensure that the guarantees assured by the party reach people. "The mistakes of the past should not be repeated," he said.

Denial of Cabinet berth disappoints Banjara community legislators, leaders

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Congress legislators and leaders belonging to the Banjara community have been disappointed by the denial of a Cabinet berth in the Congress government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Leaders of the Banjara/Lambani community told *The Hindu* on Sunday that 90% of the community voters supported the Congress in the Assembly elections following injustice meted out to the community by the BJP government led by Basavaraj Bommai which announced internal quota for the Scheduled Castes in the State.

The community has more than 45 lakh population spread largely in north Karnataka and played a significant role in the victory of Congress candidates in more than 50 constituencies, said a community leader.

Internal quota opposed

In the run-up to the poll campaign, community members opposed internal quotas and put up posters banning BJP leaders from entering Lambani tandas in various districts. Members of the community also removed BJP flags hoisted on several houses and expressed their anger. After the Assembly election results were announced, many BJP Ministers and MLAs who were defeated openly admitted that they lost the elections because Lambanis voted for the Congress.

Prakash Rathod

Rudrappa Lamani

The Congress has only two legislators – Rudrappa Lamani, MLA, and Prakash Rathod, MLC – belonging to the Banjara community. During the Ministry formation, the Congress sidelined the Banjara/Lambani community, which rejected the BJP and voted for the Congress in the elections, the leader said.

Mr. Rathod visited Delhi and lobbied hard seeking a ministerial berth to the community. He had toured more than 100 Assembly segments during the Praja Dhwani rallies and poll campaign of the Congress.

Mr. Rathod's father, K.T. Rathod, was the first Banjara community Minister in the D. Devaraj Urs government and also served as the KPCC president (1980-83).

Protest staged

Supporters of Mr. Lamani, Haveri MLA, staged a protest in front of the KPCC office in Bengaluru and other parts of north Karnataka for denying representation for their leader in the Cabinet which was expanded on Saturday following the induction of 24 Ministers.

"If Mr. Lamani does not get the ministerial post, we will protest against this because we gave our 75% votes to the Congress in the election, so there should be at least one leader from our community," said the MLA's supporters.

Sources said, AICC president M. Mallikarjun Kharge played a role in denying a ministerial berth to the Banjara community, which is believed to have contributed to his defeat in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections in Kalaburagi. In 2019, Mr. Kharge lost to Umesh Jadhav, who belongs to the Banjara community.

Mr. Jadhav defended internal reservation in the SC category, arguing that the community would get more benefits.

Almost all State governments provided at least one ministerial berth to the Banjara community. Revu Naik Belamgi was a Minister in the BJP government (2008-13), Mr. Lamani and Parameshwara Naik served as Ministers in the Siddaramaiah government (2013-19). Prabhu Chauvan was a Minister in the BJP government led by Mr. Bommai.

I will not accept Deputy Speaker's post, says Puttarangashetty

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The former Minister C. Puttarangashetty has turned down the post of Deputy Speaker offered to him.

"I will not accept the post of the Deputy Speaker," he told reporters at his native in Chamarajanagar district, near here, on Sunday.

He said the voters of his constituency had appealed to him against accepting the post as he would not be accessible to them if he were to become the Deputy Speaker.

If he were to accept the post of the Deputy Speaker, Mr. Puttarangashetty said he would find it difficult to keep in touch with the voters of his constituency. "So, I will not accept it," said Mr. Puttarangashetty, who claimed he had been assured of a ministerial berth during his visit to Delhi recently.

Mr. Puttarangashetty defeated BJP's V. Somanna in a crucial electoral battle in Chamarajanagar constituency in the recent Assembly elections.

Though he had informed Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of his inability to become the Deputy Speaker, the latter had insisted him to accept it.

"I had told him that I will ask the people of my constituency and let him know...," Mr. Puttarangashetty said before adding that the voters of his constituency were against the idea of him accepting the post.

THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA (ICAI)
Head Office: ICAI Bhawan, Indraprastha Marg, New Delhi-110002
Branch Office: TIRUPATI BRANCH OF SIRC OF ICAI
592, Bodhi Enclave, Balaji Colony, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh-517502

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (TENDER NOTICE)

ICAI Invites bids, in prescribed format, from experienced and reputed Architectural firms/Architects for Appointment of Architect for providing comprehensive Architectural and PMC services for its proposed Institutional Building at Plot No.C-19 in Seshachalam Hill View Layout Phase-I, HIG/C, survey No.195/1 of Chennaiahgunta Village Tirumala Nagar Gram Panchayat, Mangalam Group, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

The detailed terms and conditions/Tender are available at ICAI's website www.icai.org/post/icai-eoi- tenders & www.icai-SIRC.orgsirc-icai.org
Date for final submission of Tender: 20.06.2023, 05.30 pm
Date of Opening Tender: 21.06.2023

RTI activist dies while in police custody

His wife accuses the police of murder; Davangere SP seeks transfer of case to the CID

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

An RTI activist, who was facing charges of forgery, allegedly fell down from an overbridge while in police custody in Davangere district and succumbed to his injuries on Sunday. The wife of the deceased, however, accused the police of murdering her husband.

The deceased, Harish Halli, 36, is a native of Kabbala village in Channagiri taluk and he was facing charges of forging documents in a land deal case. The incident occurred around 2 a.m. on Sunday when the police were bringing him to Gandhinagar Police Station.

Dies in hospital

According to police sources, when the car in which Harish was being brought to the station was passing over the overbridge at Tolahunase, he allegedly jumped out of the car and lept from the bridge. A grievously injured Harish was rushed to a private hospital in Davangere, where he breathed his last.

Following the incident, K.R. Latha, Harish's wife, accused the police of murdering her husband. She refuted the police version of the incident and lodged a complaint with the Davangere Rural police alleging that police sub-inspector Krishnappa, police constable Devaraja, jeep driver Irshad, and one Babu Rao K. forcibly took away her husband and murdered him.

Meanwhile, the judge concerned conducted an inquest in the presence of relatives and the post-mortem was conducted by a team of two doctors.

Request sent

Superintendent of Police of Davangere district Arun K. said a request had been sent for transferring the case to the Criminal Investigation Department.

Siddaramaiah takes Raichur ZP CEO to task

A three-year-old boy died and 30 people at Rekalmardi and Gorebal villages fell ill after consuming contaminated water

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday took the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Raichur Zilla Panchayat to task following reports of the death of a three-year-old boy and more than 30 people at Rekalmardi and Gorebal villages of the district falling ill after consuming contaminated water.

Mr. Siddaramaiah ordered the CEO to provide compensation for the bereaved family.

After the people of Rekalmardi village, the residents of Gorebal village too fell ill after consuming contaminated water. Soon after receiving the information about the incident, Mr. Siddaramaiah spoke to the Raichur CEO over the phone and directed him to take immediate action against the officials concerned and ensure safe drinking water to the villages across the district.

Taking serious note of the reports of people falling ill after drinking contaminated water in several villages in the district, the Chief Minister asked the CEO to visit the villages to assess the situation and submit a report. Mr. Siddaramaiah also directed him to send the water samples for lab testing. Based on the test report, organise a health check-up camp for villagers and provide necessary treatment, he directed the CEO.

Minister N.S. Boseraju directed the district administration to address the issue and plug any leakages in the pipeline at the earliest.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

SMT. SAVITHRI SUNDERESH
27-08-1928 - 26-05-2023 [94]
Contact Numbers :
9980868316 (Mani)
9486832373 (Kalyani)

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Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
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INVITATION FOR TENDER
(Only through e-procurement portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from registered Agencies for the following works:

Office of the Chief Engineer (WWM)East, 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru - 560009

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD (in Rs.)	Last Date & Time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1	WWM-N C. Valley	BWSSB/EE(WWM-N)CV/PB/68/2023-24, Date: 24.05.2023	Rs.83.29 Lakhs / Rs.1.97 Lakhs	05.06.2023 upto 4:00 PM	06.06.2023 at 4:15 PM
2		BWSSB/EE(WWM-N)CV/PB/70/2023-24, Date: 24.05.2023 (2nd Call)	Rs.83.02 Lakhs / Rs.1.95 Lakhs	05.06.2023 upto 4:00 PM	06.06.2023 at 4:25 PM
3		BWSSB/EE(WWM-N)CV/PB/72/2023-24, Date: 24.05.2023	Rs.69.86 Lakhs / Rs.1.65 Lakhs	05.06.2023 upto 4:00 PM	06.06.2023 at 4:10 PM
4		BWSSB/EE(WWM-N)CV/PB/74/2023-24, Date: 25.05.2023	Rs.83.34 Lakhs / Rs.1.97 Lakhs	05.06.2023 upto 4:00 PM	06.06.2023 at 4:20 PM

Sd/- **Executive Engineer (WWM-N) C. Valley**

Office of the Chief Engineer (Kaveri-O&M), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru - 560009

5	Kaveri (O&M-2)	BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/82/2023-24 Date: 11.05.2023 (2nd Call)	Rs.47,29,000/- / Rs.1,12,000/-	12.06.2023 upto 4:00 PM	14.06.2023 after 4:00 PM
6		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/84/2023-24 Date: 11.05.2023 (2nd Call)	Rs.45,72,000/- / Rs.91,500/-		
7		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/105/2023-24 Date: 18.05.2023 (2nd Call)	Rs.63,49,000/- / Rs.1,50,000/-		

Sd/- **Executive Engineer (Kaveri-O&M)-2**

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bangalore-560009

8	East-1	BWSSB/EE(E)-1/PB/148/2023-24, Date: 18.05.2023 (3rd call)	Rs.5,57,265.21 / Rs.13,950.00	12.06.2023 upto 4:00 PM	14.06.2023 after 5:00 PM

Sd/- **Executive Engineer (East-1)**

Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru - 560009

9	RB-IT	BWSSB/EE(RB-IT)/75/2023-24, Date: 25.05.2023 (2nd Call)	- / Rs.90,000/-	05.06.2023 upto 4:00 PM	06.06.2023 at 4:00 PM

Sd/- **Executive Engineer (Revenue Billing-Information Technology)**

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurment process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/BCPL/127/2023-24

Kamal hails new building of Parliament

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Makkal Needhi Maiam founder and actor Kamal Haasan on Saturday said he would celebrate the inauguration of the new Parliament building on Sunday and urged parties who have called for a boycott of the event to make it an occasion of national unity as their political disagreements could take a backseat for one day.

In a statement, Mr. Haasan said the inaugural event was a moment of celebration for the entire country and filled him with immense pride.

"I believe in participatory democracy, and hence, call upon all Opposition parties who have chosen to boycott the event to reconsider. Any disagreements you may have over the event can be raised in public forums as well as on the floor of the houses of the new Parliament building. I would like all political parties to remember that there is more that unites us than divides us," he said.

"This moment of national pride has become politically divisive. I ask my PM one simple question; Please tell India, why the President should not attend the inauguration of our new Parliament? I see no reason why the President, as Head of the State, should not be part of this historic occasion. Bills passed by Parliament become law only when the President assents. It is the President who has the power to convene or adjourn sessions of Parliament," Mr. Haasan said.

KSRTC, BMTC to continue to accept ₹2,000 currency

The confusion arose after Hoskote depot of BMTC issued an order to not accept these notes

The RBI on May 19 announced the withdrawal of ₹2,000 banknotes from circulation in pursuance of its 'Clean Note Policy'. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After the Hoskote depot of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) issued an order to not accept ₹2,000 notes from commuters, the corporation on Sunday clarified that the BMTC central office had not issued any such orders to the staff.

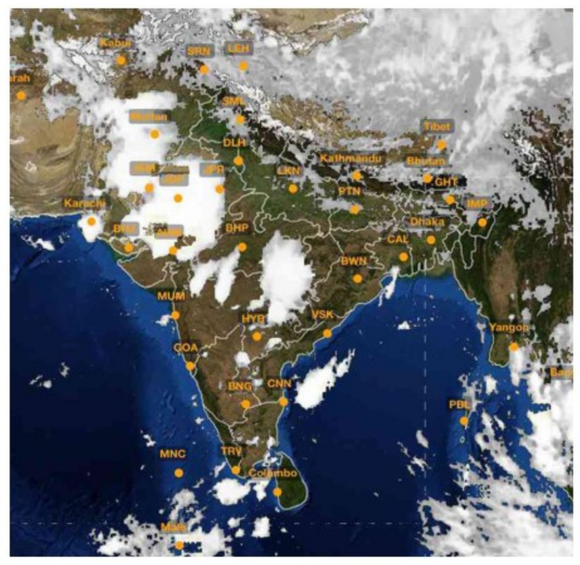
The BMTC further said, "Due to some confusion, the Hoskote depot issued an order not to take ₹2,000. However, the said order was withdrawn. BMTC buses are accepting ₹2,000 notes."

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on May 19 announced the withdrawal of ₹2,000 banknotes from circulation in pursuance of its 'Clean Note Policy'. The Central bank advised the public to deposit such notes into their bank accounts or exchange them for notes of other denominations at any bank branch, up to a limit of ₹20,000 at a time, by September 30.

On Sunday, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) also issued a press statement clarifying that the corporation buses will continue to accept ₹2,000 notes from passengers. "Please note that KSRTC did not issue any such orders to the crew not to take ₹2000 notes," said a statement.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Rajasthan and Kerala. Hailstorm with thundersquall and lightning (speed 50-60 kmph) likely at isolated places over Uttarakhand; with lightning at isolated places over Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit, Baltistan and Muzaffarabad, Himachal Pradesh and west Rajasthan.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	9.0	34.7	22.8	Kozhikode	—	35.4	28.0
Ahmedabad	—	42.3	28.5	Kurnool	—	40.9	29.0
Aizawl	6.0	33.0	17.2	Lucknow	5.6	35.6	21.9
Allahabad	—	39.0	24.6	Madurai	12.0	38.4	25.5
Bengaluru	—	32.5	23.1	Mangaluru	—	34.6	26.0
Bhopal	—	39.6	27.5	Mumbai	—	34.4	27.6
Bhubaneswar	—	36.8	24.0	Mysuru	—	35.8	21.6
Chandigarh	—	32.0	21.7	New Delhi	—	35.2	23.0
Chennai	—	40.3	29.1	Patna	—	38.0	25.4
Coimbatore	—	36.2	25.2	Port Blair	—	33.6	27.2
Dehradun	0.5	31.6	18.8	Puducherry	—	39.4	29.2
Gangtok	11.0	20.4	13.4	Pune	—	36.4	23.8
Goa	—	35.5	26.6	Raipur	—	41.6	22.5
Guwahati	3.0	30.6	23.0	Ranchi	—	35.0	21.8
Hubballi	—	36.0	23.0	Shillong	—	22.1	14.1
Hyderabad	—	39.4	26.6	Shimla	—	22.8	13.3
Imphal	0.4	31.0	20.2	Srinagar	—	21.3	8.9
Jaipur	29.6	33.2	19.5	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.7	26.4
Kochi	6.0	32.2	26.8	Tiruchi	—	37.7	27.6
Kohima	14.0	23.0	15.0	Vijayawada	—	41.0	28.4
Kolkata	0.3	33.7	27.6	Visakhapatnam	—	34.6	29.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.23	.46	.23	62	124	
Bengaluru	.26	.11	100	68	77	
Chennai	.02	132	126	94	79	
Delhi	.11	.88	.20	100	113	
Hyderabad	.07	.21	.29	—	112	
Kolkata	.06	.15	.25	75	76	
Lucknow	—	.43	—	—	101	
Mumbai	.32	.13	.13	15	153	
Pune	118	172	114	58	52	
Visakhapatnam	.18	.45	.17	97	112	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Chhapra, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 241 indicating a poor level of pollution. In contrast, Sivasagar, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 19

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

136 sluice gates of KRS replaced under DRIP

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

Far from the media glare and during the heat and dust of the Assembly elections, the project to replace 136 gates of the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) across the Cauvery and taken up in a phase-wise manner, was completed in what is a significant milestone in the history of the 91-year-old dam. The work on replacing the final set of 25 sluice gates was completed during April, thus bringing to close an important phase of the project taken up under the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) at a cost of ₹58.46 crore.

Funded by the World Bank and implemented by the Karnataka Water Resource Department, the project was initiated in 2019 and the work on gate replacement used to take place only during the short window of two to three months when the water level in the reservoir used to deplete during summer.

Officials said the replacement of the 136 sluice gates overshot the deadline owing to outbreak of COVID-19 and its ripple effect. In 2021, the fabrication of the gates were hampered owing to ban on supply of oxygen for industrial purpose during the peak of the pandemic.

In 2022, the authorities could work only for 17 days as the water level in the reservoir rose rapidly owing to early and intense monsoon preceded by heavy pre-monsoon showers.

The KRS whose sluice gates were replaced in a phase-wise manner. FILE PHOTO

Though 48 gates were ready for installation last year, only 23 gates could be installed and authorities had to wait for water level to recede below 103 ft and it happened in March 2023.

H.S. Anand, Superintending Engineer, KRS Modernisation and Medium Irrigation Project circle, Mandya, told *The Hindu* that out of 136 gates, 48 were above 114 ft level, 40 gates above 106 ft, and 48 gates above 103 ft. In addition, 16 gates above 80 ft were replaced under a different project in 2011 with State funding while eight surplus level sluice gates were permanently plugged in 2007. The 136 gate replacements were part of the DRIP to arrest seepage from the dam by replacing the gates and also strengthening the structure of the dam. The authorities have also invited tenders for construction of a four-storeyed building to install a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system at KRS for the automatic operation of the sluice gates. The manual element will be minimised to monitoring the system while the operation of the sluice gates will be computer controlled based on water levels.

"While gate replacements have been completed, work on strengthening the dam structure is still on and is likely to take another year. The weak spots of the wall have been identified after conducting tomography of the structure which is akin to scanning a human body," said Mr. Anand. The underwater grouting work is currently under way and specialised equipment is being used by trained personnel who dive in the reservoir waters, carry the application mix and surface after completing the grouting work. Each team works for an hour below the surface level after which another team replaces them. Once completed the life span of the dam will also be enhanced, Mr. Anand added.

Tribute

A musical tribute was paid to composer Mysore Vasudevacharya on his 159th birth anniversary at the renowned composer's ancestral house in Mysuru on Sunday. There were at least 10 concerts during the day, and the event was organised by the Mysuru Music Fraternity in association with Shri Purandaradaasar Trust, Chennai. M.A. SRIRAM

8 persons arrested for 'deliberate' attack on Income Tax officials

The Hindu Bureau
KARUR

Director of Income Tax (Investigation) Sivasankaran said on Sunday that the attack on Income Tax Department officials, allegedly by DMK workers and supporters of Minister V. Senthilbalaji in Karur two days ago, was "deliberate".

The police arrested eight persons, most of them DMK men, on the charge of attacking the officials when they went to carry out searches on Friday last.

Arun, 27, and Bupesh, 35, of Karur, who were said to have damaged the vehicle of IT officials, were among those arrested. A police officer told *The Hindu* that the video footage was being verified. Steps were taken to arrest all those involved in the incident.

Tight security: CRPF personnel posted in front of the house of a DMK functionary at Rayanur in Karur during a search by Income Tax officials on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The searches being carried out on the premises of persons linked to Mr. Senthilbalaji continued for the third consecutive day on Sunday.

The house of Karur Deputy Mayor Tharani Saravanan at Rayanur, two more houses in the same area, two popular restaurants on Karur-Coimbatore Road, a company executing government contracts and a finance company at Vaiyapuri Nagar were among the places searched. However, no search was made on Sunday at the house of V. Ashok Kumar, the brother of the Minister. Mr. Sivasankaran said counter- and malicious complaints would not scare the officials. He spoke to reporters after visiting four officials at the Government Medical College Hospital in Karur, where they were being treated for the injuries.

Mr. Sivasankaran said a woman official had suffered a fracture and three others had suffered internal injuries.

The evidence (of economic offences) was tampered with at various places, he said.

TH Education Plus Career Counselling from June 3

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 21st edition of The Hindu Education Plus Career Counselling will be held at 10 locations in nine cities across Karnataka from June 3, 2023.

The event will provide guidance on UPSC exam, CET counseling, NEET counseling by Karnataka Examination Authority (KEA), while also providing career guidance on courses in Arts, Science, Commerce, Law, Fashion Designing, Journalism, Animation, Performing Arts, Management, Engineering, Medicine and many more.

The event will provide a platform to connect students and parents with experts and educational institutions. The event also helps students make the right decisions after getting the right counselling and guidance. Timings for registration is between 9.00 a.m. and 9.30 a.m.

The event will be held between 9.30 a.m. and 1 p.m. For details, contact: 9845095781 / 9448160126 / 9448871815. Entry is free. All participating students will get career counselling book free.

The gold sponsor is Siddaganga Institute Of Technology - Tumakuru.

The silver sponsors are Atria Institute of Technology - Bengaluru, GSSS Institute of Engineering and Technology for Women - Mysuru, Insights IAS - Bengaluru, JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research - Mysuru, Malnad College of Engineering - Hassan, R.V. University - Bengaluru, St Joseph Engineering College - Mangaluru, Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering - Mysuru. The associate sponsors are Bank Of Maharashtra, Bheemanna Khandre Institute Of Technology - Bhalki, CMR university - Bengaluru, Karnataka Bank, Karnataka State Open University - Mysuru, Khaja Banda Nawaz University - Kalburgi, SDM Educational Society (R) - Ujire, Shaeen group of institutions - Bidar, UCO Bank.

The Hindu Education Plus career counselling - 2023

Place	Date	Venue	Address
Mangaluru	03/06/2023	Geetha S.M. Shetty Hall	Ramakrishna College, Bunts' Hostel Circle, Mangaluru
Jayanagar	03/06/2023	NMKRV Shashwathi Auditorium	22nd Cross, Jayanagar 3rd Block, Bengaluru
Davangere	04/06/2023	GM Institute of Technology	Auditorium Hall, Post Box No.4, P.B. Road, Davangere
Bidar	04/06/2023	Sri Poojya Channabasava Pattadevaru Rang Mandir	Near district stadium, Bidar
Malleswaram	10/06/2023	Chowdiah Memorial Hall	16th Cross Road. Malleswaram, Bengaluru
Hubballi	10/06/2023	K.L.E Society's Biotechnology Auditorium	B.V.B. College of Engineering & Technology Campus, Vidyanagar, Hubballi
Ballari	10/06/2023	Basavarajeshwari Public School & College (BPSC)	Anantapur Road, Ballari
Mysuru	11/06/2023	Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering	P.B. No.206, Gokulam III Stage, Mysuru
Tumakuru	11/06/2023	Birla Auditorium	Siddaganga Institute of Technology, Tumakuru
Kalaburagi	18/06/2023	Poojya Doddappa Appa Sabha Bhavan	Poojya Doddappa Appa Sabha Bhavan, Sharana Basava University, Kalaburagi

Six persons, including two children, killed in accident

The Hindu Bureau
YADGIR

Six persons, including two children, were killed in a road accident near Kalakeri village in Kushtagi taluk of Koppal district on Sunday.

They were identified as Jayashree, 25, Raghavendra, 28, Rajappa, 36, Akshaya, 22, Rakhi, 4, and Rashmika, 2.

The accident occurred when the car by which they were travelling collided with a truck coming from the opposite direction. Superintendent of Police Yashoda Vantagodi, who visited the spot, told *The Hindu* that he car skidded off to the wrong side of the road after the front tyre burst and hit the truck.

The car that met with an accident near Kalakeri village in Kushtagi taluk of Koppal district on Sunday SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The victims were travelling from Shiranal village in Indi taluk of Vijayapura district to Bengaluru.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has expressed grief over the deaths and announced a compensation of ₹2 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased.

Alarming turn

Normalcy in Manipur requires concerted action by govt., civil society

Violence has flared again in Manipur, merely three weeks after conflagrations resulted in scores of deaths and the displacement of people in Churachandpur and Imphal in particular. Alarmingly, what began as protests against an order by the High Court of Manipur, on March 27, seeking the inclusion of the Meitei community into the State's Scheduled Tribe list, has taken a grotesque turn, with representatives of the Kuki-Zomi community including BJP MLAs seeking a "separate administration". This situation should never have come to such a pass. While inter-community relations have occasionally led to flare-ups and remained tense for years together, the conflagrations in May mark a degradation in hill-valley relations and a complete failure of the government in curbing violence committed by radicals and miscreants present in the Meitei and Kuki-Zomi communities. Partially, this was a consequence of the inability of the State government led by the BJP Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh, to rise above the fray and to act in a manner that was unbiased against particular communities. The government's so-called anti-poppy cultivation drives that were seen as moves against the Kuki-Zomi hill dwellers, raised their ire, while the High Court's single judge Bench's ill-thought-out order – as the Chief Justice of India, D.Y. Chandrachud, himself observed as being violative of a 23-year-old Constitution Bench judgment – exacerbated the situation. The government was unable to prevent the spiralling of violence in Churachandpur and Imphal, suggesting the current regime's incompetence.

The State government must get its act together, with the help of the Centre, to bring back normalcy by increasing patrolling of paramilitary and police forces in riot-torn areas, providing relief to displaced people and curtailing the influence of militant sections. A plan to allow the return of those displaced to their homes in the medium term must also be put into order with the help of the security forces. Not doing so only plays into the hands of chauvinists from either side who emphasise differences, disharmony and separation – all of which will be disastrous for the State in the long term. The Union government cannot remain nonchalant about the turn of events. Manipur, like some of the other north-eastern States, needs to promote a civic consciousness among its citizens that will allow them to rise above ethnic identities to differentiate themselves. With trust fraying between community leaders and State government representatives, it is incumbent upon civil society members, within and outside Manipur, to take up the cause of rebuilding inter-community ties and not letting chauvinist and militant groups hijack the role of representation.

From the margins

Women in civil service have a challenging, exciting task before them

For the second year in a row, the top three ranks of the Civil Services Examination, 2022, conducted by the Union Public Service Commission have been secured by women. In a spectacular achievement, results announced on Tuesday show that 12 women are in the top 20. The 26-year-old topper, Ishita Kishore, who graduated from Delhi University's Sri Ram College of Commerce and is a resident of Greater Noida, reached the pinnacle in her third attempt. Thanking her family for their support, Ms. Kishore said she read up on current affairs and practised writing at length because the examination process can be draining. The second-rank holder, Garima Lohia, 24, from Buxar and is also a Delhi University graduate, cleared the examination in her second attempt; and Uma Harathi N., 28, who stood third, is an engineering graduate from Telangana and cleared it in her fifth attempt. The young women's reflections on success and failure, the need to persevere against all odds and the importance of an empathetic ecosystem are significant pointers for future students, teachers and parents. For students, especially girls, the courage and commitment of these women is inspiring. One can only hope that teachers and parents will create the right environment for girls to fulfil their dreams; too many girls have had to give up half way in a largely patriarchal society.

This year, 933 candidates, of an approximate 11.5 lakh who took the examination, have been recommended by the UPSC for appointment to the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Foreign Service, Indian Police Service and Central Services, Group A and B; 63% (588 candidates) are from the economically weaker sections, Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste categories. This should help fill the gaps in policy in key sectors such as education and health for the needy. For all the success in the classroom, the students will now have to test their strength on the field. In a country as diverse as India, the challenges are different every few kilometres; they may have to contend with hate, violence, prejudice, discrimination and other adverse circumstances. The trail-blazers in the IAS, many of them women, had their first postings, as is the norm, in rural or semi-urban areas, and by keeping their ear to the ground, picked the issues they would campaign for, like the right to education for children, to give just one example. As women civil servants forming the steel framework of the administrative system, they may have to work under pressure, but their service will be vital for the well-being of a young India, especially women who often find themselves on the margins.

A belligerence towards Beijing that is unsettling

Manoj Joshi

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The intensifying head-to-head clash between the United States and China has set alarm bells ringing. Beginning with a trade war in 2018, U.S. policy towards China has morphed into a draconian technology denial regime aimed at hobbling China's rise. Simultaneously with a view of preventing any Chinese military venture to capture Taiwan, the U.S. has taken major steps across the Indo-Pacific to shore up its military edge.

The belligerence towards Beijing is a bit unsettling. This was a quasi-ally whose friendship cemented the rise of China, but, today, Washington wants to stop it on its tracks. For several years, its own allies such as Japan and the European Union (EU) resisted U.S. pressure to follow its new course, but the war in Ukraine and the very obvious Chinese support for Russia seem to have settled the debate.

A détente is distant

The recent G-7 summit put forward a united West plus Japan view on China. Besides condemning its "economic coercion" and "militarisation activities", it created a new group to deal with hostile economic actions, mainly by China, to coerce nations. On the table was a more draconian measure to review all outbound investment to China on the issue of security.

At the end of the G-7 meeting, U.S. President Joe Biden announced that he expected to soon "see a thaw" but the relationship is hardly heading for any kind of a détente. Both countries are jostling for power and influence across the world. "Extreme competition" over technologies may have initiated the conflict, but their insecurities are increasingly bringing their military and nuclear instruments to the fore.

Mr. Biden is outlining what is called the new Washington Consensus designed to re-establish U.S. hegemony. The old one, which was based on free markets, embraced China with the hope it would, over time, integrate into the American-led liberal international order. But China, in a sense, went rogue.

Technology denial to China is one aspect of the strategy. The other is to turn the old Consensus on its head by protectionism and a new industrial policy based on state subsidies. A third element is to reach out to China and claim that all that Washington wants is to "de-risk and diversify" its economy, and guard its key technologies using a " small yard,[with a] high fence".

Just what the U.S. goal is, is not clear. Most experts say that while controls may slow China, it is impossible to prevent it from developing its own technologies. The Russian experience shows too that sanctions are not easy to work either.

> Washington's hostility towards Beijing may bring benefits to India, but a breakdown in China-U.S. ties would be catastrophic for the world

Seeing U.S. export restrictions to over 600 Chinese entities, all in the last couple of years, Beijing does not see much difference between "de-risking" and "containment". Its immediate response to the G-7 was to order its infrastructure companies to stop buying from Micron and dressing down the Japanese Ambassador in Beijing over the G-7 communiqué.

French President Emmanuel Macron's comment on refusing to be a vassal state of the U.S. represents a tip of the iceberg of the worries of Europe and allies such as South Korea. Now, there are signs that resistance is also building up in the U.S. to the strategy of the Biden administration. The chief of Nvidia, world leader in AI computing, has warned that the battle over chips risks "enormous damage" to the U.S. technology industry. He said that China made up roughly one-third of the U.S. industry's market and would be "impossible to replace as both a source of components and an end market for its products". There are more than a dozen companies such as Micron who derive between 25% to 50% of their revenue from China. Almost all the big names in the U.S. have a strong presence there anyway.

A dangerous game of 'chicken'

The U.S. wants China in the new Washington Consensus on its terms, the hardest of which are setting limits as to what China can aspire to in the fields of technology and military. This is something Beijing naturally resents. The two now seem to be involved in what the Americans call a game of "chicken" which comes with a high risk of miscalculation, war or a messy global economic breakdown.

The problem is that where the old Washington Consensus was largely in the area of economics, the new suffers from an overdose of geopolitics which is also feeding into local U.S. politics as well. It is based on the erroneous belief that the U.S. is in a state of decline and that the old Washington Consensus gutted U.S. industry and impoverished its middle and poorer classes.

That it vastly enriched its well off is another matter. Instead of dealing with this outcome through effective policy, the Democrats and Republicans fiddled around with their pet policies – one encouraging entitlements and the other tax cuts.

This has created a toxic political atmosphere that both parties, increasingly dominated by their more extreme wings, are seeking to exploit. The one area they seem to agree on is that China is responsible for their alleged ills.

Mr. Biden seeks to introduce nuance into his approach to China. But Republican Hawks in Congress have created a Select Committee on China chaired by China hawk Mike Gallagher who said in its first meeting in March that the competition between China and the U.S. was "an existential struggle over what life will look like in the 21st century".

In a recent interview, Henry Kissinger warned against misinterpreting Chinese behaviour. China wanted to be powerful, but not necessarily a global hegemon in the American style. The chances of that happening are not high anyway. The U.S. itself is by far the most powerful country in the world, militarily and economically, and current trends suggest that it is likely to remain so. With its allies the EU, the United Kingdom, Japan and Australia, it will continue to be ahead of China in every measure.

The issue is China's diplomacy

China has achieved a great deal. It may have stolen IP, and will continue to do so, but it has also put down serious money in developing its tech and education sector.

Where it seems to have lost out is in its diplomacy where it has created significant adversaries through its assertive behaviour, be it in the East Sea, South China Sea or the mountains of Ladakh.

In their own way, both are privileging security over other issues when it comes to their global outlook. And therein lies the danger to the rest of the world. In this, the U.S., by far more powerful than China, must take the larger share of the blame.

As it is, the U.S. is not the smartest country when it comes to dealing with global geopolitical challenges. Its enormous wealth and power and echo-chamber think tanks make it difficult for it to understand distant countries and cultures. But worse is the American tendency to fight first and ask questions later. Vietnam, and the recent examples of Afghanistan and Iraq are proof of that. Worries are that something of the sort may happen in the case of China as well.

U.S. estrangement with China enhances India's geopolitical value, something the present ruling dispensation is revelling in. But while the Sino-American hostility may bring benefits to India, a breakdown would be catastrophic, for not just India but also the world. New Delhi is not unaware of this and has stepped carefully in its own relationship with China, whether at the global and regional levels or the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh.

At Hiroshima, Japan's moment to reinforce partnerships

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The G-7 Hiroshima Summit is the first hosted by Tokyo since the 2008 summit and comes at a time when the world is faced with enervating challenges such as the war in Ukraine, the threat of nuclear proliferation, rapidly transpiring impacts of climate change, economic security, unstable supply chains and the impact and regulation of sensitive technologies. While the agenda for the Summit was expansive and ambitious, the imperative for the G-7 countries, led by Japan, appeared to be centered around the means to consolidate approaches toward the most pressing global issues while walking respective geopolitical tightropes. For Tokyo, the Summit was driven, in large part, by the need to define and devise the means of navigating the complex geopolitical landscape of the Indo-Pacific in order to enable collaborations that would be functional as well as act as bulwarks. It was a moment to reinforce partnerships in a region that has become laden with security risks and is a key theatre for great power competition while simultaneously being the principal geography on which the trajectory of the rest of the world's fortunes depends.

Why the agenda is vital for Japan

Issues that weighed heavily on the agenda of the Hiroshima Summit included Russia's aggression in Ukraine which is now more than a year old and shows little signs of abating; a China that is increasingly on the offensive with an ever-active military and nuclear modernisation plan; China's growing military pressures on Taiwan; and the dangers posed by North Korea's increasingly volatile nuclear posturing and nuclear weapons programme. While all of these issues are of great significance globally, for the Indo-Pacific and for Japan in particular, these are vital given the country's geographical location in close proximity to China, Russia, and North Korea. Concurrently, both in the weeks leading up to the Summit and during it, Tokyo sought to step up collaboration in science and technology and progressed its objective of reinvigorating the country's chip industry.

> For Tokyo, the G-7 Summit was driven by the need to define and devise the means of navigating the complex geopolitical landscape of the Indo-Pacific

Security, nevertheless, informed much of the agenda at the Summit. The war in Ukraine has had a significant impact on Japan's national security strategy. In the wake of the invasion, Japan has announced a number of changes to its defence policy, including plans to increase its defence spending and acquire new weapons systems. Similarly, China has been rapidly expanding its military power in recent years, and has been increasingly assertive in its territorial claims in the East China Sea and the South China Sea. Tokyo is no stranger to the debilitating consequences of a nuclear attack and is quite naturally concerned about the frequent nuclear posturing by Pyongyang with the latter not only conducting a number of missile tests in recent years but also threatening to attack Japan with nuclear weapons. These concerns are also shared by Seoul and Washington and are a key driving force behind U.S. efforts at strengthening the security architecture of Northeast Asia.

New Delhi-Tokyo partnership is important

Recent years have witnessed steady collaboration between New Delhi and Tokyo, with regular joint military exercises and the progress of agreements on economic cooperation. While Japan has been involved in the South Asian region through its involvement in several infrastructure initiatives, recent years have witnessed India partnering with Japan for advancing the same objective through the development of infrastructure projects in third countries in the Indo-Pacific region. As two of the world's largest democracies, the continued cooperation between India and Japan is an important indicator of what sustained partnerships can achieve in addressing the challenges of the 21st century. The G-7 2023 Summit was another opportunity for Japan and India to further strengthen their partnership and expand the scope of their shared interests.

Two key principles form the central basis for both Japan and India's role in the Indo-Pacific – first, the preservation of a rules-based order; and second, opposition to any unilateral attempt to alter regional order. Both countries reiterated these principles at the Hiroshima Summit, particularly with reference to Russia and China. Closer and stronger ties between India and Japan are significant for boosting middle-power diplomacy in the region.

Advancing Shinzo Abe's legacy

Fumio Kishida, as the current Japanese Prime Minister, is enthusiastically carrying forward the legacy of his predecessor, Shinzo Abe, who was a strong advocate for Japan's active role in the world, and worked determinedly to strengthen the country's ties with its allies. Mr. Kishida's efforts are evident in the strong network building that he has undertaken, and the Hiroshima Summit, which saw the participation of India, South Korea, Vietnam, Indonesia, Australia, and Brazil among others, is a further instance of Japan looking to build upon its relationships and transform them into partnerships that would bolster the region. His efforts saw agreements with the United Kingdom, Australia, the U.S., Africa, and the Quad (Australia, India, Japan and the U.S.). If Shinzo Abe laid the foundations of a more involved Japanese global presence, Mr. Kishida has advanced Shinzo Abe's work by developing security and diplomatic partnerships across the world including with neighbouring South Korea with which bilateral ties have been historically tenuous. The Hiroshima Summit reinforced Japan's re-emergence as a critical security actor which is increasingly willing to shape the emerging strategic contours of the Indo-Pacific and the wider global order.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The *Sengol* and politics

As someone who started his schooling a couple of months before India gained Independence, I consider myself as a child of the dawn of Independence. I studied in the Tamil medium first and though I switched over to the English medium thereafter till the end of my school years, Tamil continued to be my first language (though it was not my mother tongue). I was fortunate to have been taught by some of the finest scholars in Tamil literature and poetry. Yet, I never came across an instance where the term '*Sengol*' was used to signify the transfer of power. I recollect that the term was used along with the Tamil word for rule or governance — "*Aatchi*", as in "*Sengol Aatchi*", or its opposite "*Kodungol Aatchi*", signifying whether a king or monarch was just and benevolent or unjust and cruel, respectively. Therefore, I find the excitement now about *Sengol* being a sacred symbol of the transfer of power to be rather befuddling and amusing. As someone interested in history, I do not recall that throughout the 3,000 years and more of recorded history of the subcontinent, power was necessarily transferred through a *Sengol* or its regional variants like *dharmdhand*, etc. More often than not, the transfer of power was achieved by conquest and waging war or by violent elimination of the incumbent ruler.

As for the *Sengol* in the new Parliament, I wonder whether Lord Mountbatten did actually hand it over to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on August 15, 1947. If so, there is sure to be photographic evidence of this great moment. Is it that all evidence thereof has been obliterated? In the midst of the violence consequent to Partition, would someone have deliberately obfuscated this fact?
In any case, what is the relevance of this symbol in a functioning democracy where the transfer of power takes place through elections? Perhaps, it rightfully belongs to a museum. All this makes me wonder, at the age of 82, whether the current resurrection of the *Sengol* is truly an attempt to restore a hoary tradition or one more stick to beat the reputation of the country's first Prime Minister with.

K. Balakesari,
Chennai

It is shocking to find the inauguration of the new Parliament building to be mired in such controversy and political hostility. Why is there so much of attention on the *Sengol*? Will there now be proper, intelligent, decent and nuanced debate?

Harish Hegde,
Mysuru

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Menstrual health is a public health issue

In a recent incident, a man from a city in Maharashtra allegedly killed his 12-year-old sister because he mistook period stains on her clothes as a sign of a sexual relationship. The incident is indicative of the extent of misinformation about periods in India's urban locales.

In urban India, girls and women navigate a good part of their life in the public domain – a young working woman travels for hours by public transport, a teenager living in slums makes her way to school through narrow lanes, a sanitation worker begins her day before dawn cleaning the city, a vegetable vendor spends hours by her stall, and a nurse works busy 12-hour shifts. Their lives are very different, but they all navigate public spaces on a daily basis while dealing with a private aspect of their lives: their periods.

Periods are normal, but continue to be shrouded by shame, stigma and discrimination. Consequently, people face barriers in getting accurate information about periods and related products, using toilets, and seeking help when needed. The popular belief is that rural areas are hubs for 'period poverty' – backward, steeped in superstitions and unsafe practices – while urban areas are progressive, with access to modern period products and related necessities. However, the lived experiences of many urban dwellers show otherwise.

The sanitation worker may not know much about her body or periods. She uses waste cloth during her periods and often throws away the cloth after one use as she cannot wash, dry and reuse the cloth hygienically. The teenager wears sanitary pads for 10-12 hours at a stretch. Both may not have a toilet in their homes, and use a community toilet or go to a secluded spot early in the morning or late at night. The community toilets close by 11 p.m. and are often unclean. During summer, the water supply is limited, and bathing daily may not be possible. The working woman wears extra pads as she may not have the time or a clean or separate toilet at work to change.

Aruna Bhattacharya

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Arundhati Muralidharan

is the founder of Menstrual Health Alliance India

Despite many initiatives by governments and NGOs, prominent gaps remain unaddressed in urban spaces

Barriers to menstrual hygiene

India has been a front runner for action on menstrual hygiene – governments, NGOs and the private sector have all played an important role in spreading awareness and providing menstrual products. But the focus has often been on India's rural population, and for good reasons. However, India's large, rapidly growing urban population also calls out for attention.

Field insights and research show that certain groups of urban dwellers face a whole range of limitations that affects their menstrual health. The understanding of periods is still limited, especially among low-income groups. Period products may be more easily available in local kirana shops, chemists and online channels, but continue to be wrapped in paper or black plastic bags due to the associated shame. While many urban homes have toilets, residents of low-income slums, pavement dwellers, and some educational institutions and workplaces still do not have toilets, or have toilets that are not easily accessible, safe or clean and convenient.

Poor awareness, stigma and shame, limited access to products, lack of personal hygiene, poor toilet and water facilities, and difficulties in disposing pads can cause anxiety, discomfort, and infections, and long-term health problems. Menstrual waste management is a looming concern given the growing use of disposable sanitary pads. Routine garbage collection exists in many urban residential areas, but not in low-income areas. Where waste collection mechanisms exist, users don't always segregate pads. Sanitation workers are then forced to sort through waste with their bare hands. This task undermines their health and dignity.

Doable actions can help improve menstrual health in urban India, especially for low-income groups and in public spaces. Awareness about periods is a key pillar of action, and must be continued, along with efforts to address harmful social and gender norms. Menstrual products, both reusable and disposable, must be more available through various access channels – retail outlets, social enterprises, government schemes and NGOs. People should have the information and right to choose the products that they want to use. Citizen movements such as 'Green the Red' support urban populations to use menstrual cups and cloth pads, providing that much-needed exposure to reusable products.

Female-friendly community and public toilets are gaining popularity. 'She Toilets' in Telangana and Tamil Nadu and 'Pink Toilets' in Delhi provide safe, private, clean facilities with essential amenities needed to manage periods. Waste disposal and management remain a challenge. Yet some promising practices include the provision of dustbins and incinerators in female toilets, which promote waste segregation at source through initiatives like the 'Red Dot Campaign' and innovations like 'PadCare Labs'.

Closing gaps

Some prominent gaps remain unaddressed in urban spaces: reaching people living in unregistered slums, pavements, refugee camps and other vulnerable conditions in urban areas. Worksites, both formal and informal, need to cater to the menstrual needs of women who work. Support should continue for innovations in menstrual waste management that are safe, effective and scalable.

As we marked May 28 as Menstrual Hygiene Day, let us come together to shape the narrative on menstrual health as vital to personal health, public health, and human rights for all.

Kudumbashree is at a crossroads

Twenty-five years since its inception, the mission faces some challenges

STATE OF PLAY

S. Anandan
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It was the people's planning movement in Kerala that laid the ground for the idea of fostering self-supporting women's groups as a means to eradicate poverty. In 1998, under the E.K. Nayanar-led government, the State Poverty Eradication Mission was launched with the aim of empowering poor women financially and socially. A year later, it was renamed Kudumbashree Mission and began to function under the local self-government department.

But the mission was more than the scaling up of an experiment with thrift and credit societies – small community-based self-help groups of women – in Alappuzha and Malappuram districts. The informal banking system with microfinancing at its core got a fillip with NABARD chipping in with support, paving the way for other financial institutions to follow suit. The three-tier structure with neighbourhood groups called Ayalkoottams having 10 to 20 women from as many families forming the lowest rung and the local body-level community development societies as its top layer gave Kudumbashree some autonomy even as it worked with local bodies.

From a mere credit programme, Kudumbashree became a multifaceted entity with footprints in all spheres of society. It promoted self-employment, entrepreneurship, skilling mainly for the service industry, extended critical gender support and helped mainstream the differently abled and marginalised sections. At least 20 States roped in Kudumbashree to replicate the model of linking community organisations with their local governments.

In Kerala, Kudumbashree has touched people's lives through community restaurants, branded products in stores and on e-commerce platforms, micro and small scale industries, Haritha Karma Sena volunteers who collect non-biodegradable waste from households for disposal, Snehitha gender helpdesk and gender resource centres, e-service centres, all-women construction sites, and the workforce for the animal birth control programme for regulating the population of community dogs. It's the nodal agency for a slew of Central, State schemes. The successes came along with setbacks in traditionally male-dominated areas such as operating bus services, 'She Taxis' and the Mahila Mall in Kozhikode. As the implementing agency for the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana, Kudumbashree gave vocational training to some 62,000 people and placement for over 44,000.

If the flourishing of the Panchayati Raj Institutions as instruments of decentralised planning spawned an ecosystem that allowed Kudumbashree to push the envelope, equal representation for women in local bodies lent them political visibility. Women constitute 54% of Kerala's 21,900 local body members; about 70% of these women are from Kudumbashree. The programme has over 46 lakh members, with another five lakh forming part of the auxiliary groups launched two years ago. The overall thrift deposit of the members stands above ₹8,000 crore. If just one woman from a family is allowed to be a neighbourhood group member, auxiliary groups are meant to bring on board the new generation of women aged between 18 and 40 years who are far more skilled, educated and employable than their forebears.

At 25, Kudumbashree is at a crossroads, as it now has to address the aspirations of the new generation in a tech-driven world. Thanks to all-round efforts, only 0.64% of the population in Kerala is categorised under extreme poverty, and mitigation measures to help them out of it are already underway. It's against this backdrop that Kudumbashree is focusing on skilling educated members of the auxiliary groups so that they take up employment or start enterprises. While it has launched over 26,000 enterprises under the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme, a sub component of the National Rural Livelihood Mission, just a few are noteworthy.

Also, criticism is rife that a majority of the 1.08 lakh micro enterprises facilitated by Kudumbashree stick to the gendered vocations of women. For the auxiliary groups to be productive, women should have more time for themselves. For that, a prerequisite would be setting up ward-level day care centres and day homes for the elderly. A deeper social change would be required to progress from mere victim protection in cases of gender violence to an uncompromising assertion of rights.

Most soldiers killed in action during UN missions were Indian

The UN Operation in the Congo between 1960 and 1964 was the deadliest for Indian troops

DATA POINT

Vignesh Radhakrishnan

The United Nations observed the 75th anniversary of its peacekeeping missions last Thursday. During a ceremony to pay tribute to the more than 4,000 peacekeepers who have died on duty, Secretary-General of the UN, Antonio Guterres, requested hundreds of military officers and diplomats in uniform to observe a moment of silence in their honour. He then awarded medals to ambassadors from the 39 home countries of the 103 peacekeepers who lost their lives in 2022.

The first military observers were sent by the UN Security Council to oversee the Israeli-Arab Armistice Agreement in May 1948. Indian troops and experts have played a significant role in the UN's peacekeeping missions. Data show that since the inception of UN peacekeeping missions, most of the lives lost during peacekeeping missions due to malicious acts were of Indian troops.

Chart 1 shows the number of peacekeepers, country-wise, who died due to malicious acts during peacekeeping missions. In total, 1,115 peacekeepers have died on the field due to malicious acts, of which 69 were from India followed by Chad (64), Ghana (53), Nigeria (44) and Pakistan (44). In total, 4,298 peacekeepers have died – 1,481 due to illness, 1,386 due to accidents, 316 due to other causes, and the rest due to malicious acts.

The United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC) between July 1960 and June 1964 proved to be the deadliest for Indian troops and experts, with 15 dying due to malicious acts. A front-page article published on November 24, 1960, in the *The Hindu* described the attack of the Congolese soldiers on Indian officers in detail. It spoke of how Indian Army Majors were taken out of their residences at bayonet point and severely injured with rifle butts. A colonel who was in charge of the Indian contingent was stopped by Congolese soldiers who had submachine guns and his car was taken away. By the end of March 1963, most Indian troops returned. The then Deputy Defence Minister, D.R. Chavan, said in the Lok Sabha that 36 Indian armed force personnel were killed during the mission.

Chart 2 shows the Indian fatalities due to malicious acts across various peacekeeping campaigns. Following the ONUC, the United Nations Operation in Somalia II (UNOSOM) between March 1993 and 1995 resulted in the loss of 12 Indian troops and experts due to malicious acts. Among ongoing missions, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) recorded the deaths of seven Indian troops.

Chart 3 shows the country-wise number of military/police personnel, mission experts and staff officers currently serving in UN peacekeeping missions. With 6,097 such personnel, India stands third after Bangladesh (7,237) and Nepal (6,264). It is followed by Rwanda (5,935) and Pakistan (4,334). Four of the top five contributions come from the Indian subcontinent. Notably, most of the troop and expert contributions have come from poor- or middle-income countries. The 71 operations conducted till date have seen participation from 2 million peacekeepers from 125 nations.

Chart 4 shows the number of troops, experts, formed police units and staff officers from India who are part of the ongoing peacekeeping missions. Most Indians (2,426) are part of the UNMISS, followed by the UN stabilisation mission in Congo (MONUSCO: 1,971) and United Nations Interim Force In Lebanon (UNFIL: 875).

Mr. Guterres lamented that those striving to guide countries out of conflict are now situated "on the front lines in some of the world's most dangerous places."

Fighting for peace

The charts are based on data collated from the Department of Peace Operations, which provides political and executive direction to UN peacekeeping operations

Peacekeepers: In 1963, six members of the Indian contingent of the United Nations Operation in the Congo (ONUC) prepare to leave for duty stations in the Jadotville area in Likasi, Congo. UN PHOTO

Chart 1: The chart shows the number of peacekeepers, country-wise, who died due to malicious acts during peacekeeping missions

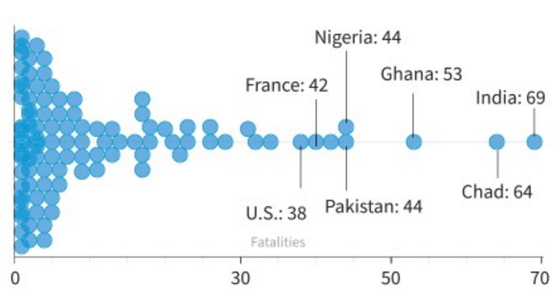
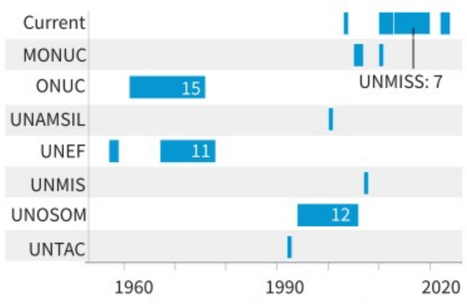


Chart 2: The chart shows the Indian fatalities due to malicious acts across various peacekeeping campaigns



MONUC: Congo (1999 to 2010), UNAMSIL: Sierra Leone (1999 to 2005), UNTAC: Cambodia

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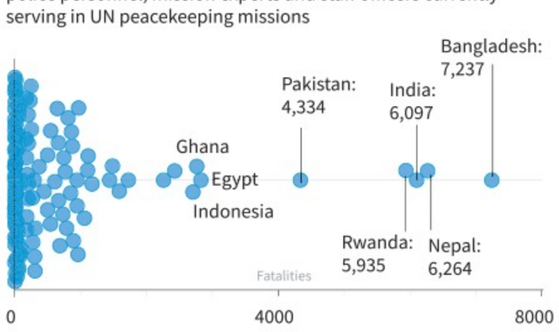
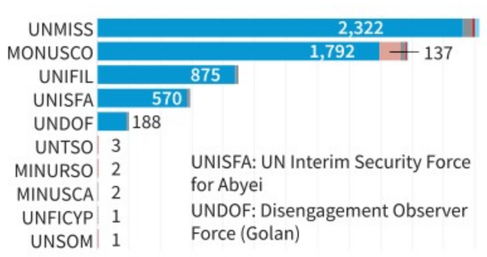


Chart 4: The number of troops, formed police units, staff officers, experts and police from India who are part of the ongoing peacekeeping missions



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FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 29, 1973

National institute to help handicapped

Gauhati, May 28: The Union Government to establish a comprehensive national institute for each major category of handicapped persons, the Vice-President, Mr. G.S. Pathak, said here to-day. The institute will undertake research, train key personnel, and in the process, impart education and training to a limited number of persons. Mr. Pathak said the first school for partially deaf children had been set up in Hyderabad as part of the national institute. He regretted that response to the incentives offered by the Union Government to physically handicapped students had "not been very encouraging." Mr. Pathak was inaugurating the Fourth Congress of the All India Federation of the Deaf here to-day. Mr. Pathak called for an all-out effort for the total removal of deafness to enable the disabled enjoy life as normal persons. With the high degree of sophistication attained in surgical treatment coupled with rapid advance in science and technology, this could be achieved in the near future, he said. Mr. Pathak said while the more robust among the deaf might survive the abysmal silence of their lives without damage, it might well lead to mental depression and the development of certain anti-social complexes in sensitive cases. "It is only natural, therefore, that the plight of the deaf should engage the attention not only of medical specialists and scientists, but also of social workers, educationists and psychologists all over the world," he said.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 29, 1923

Between India and Ceylon

Question of telephone connection: A scheme which the Indian authorities are just now considering, to connect Burma with India and all the principal towns in India with one another by telephone, writes the Ceylon "Daily News", naturally raises the question as to whether telephonic connection between India and Ceylon cannot be established. Such project is rendered more feasible than under ordinary circumstances by the fact that the Indian scheme is to extend to South India. Madras and Ootacamund and Cochin and Tuticorin are also to be connected by trunk lines. Once the Tuticorin installation is established, the question of connecting Ceylon with it through Talaimannar and Danushkodi is not a matter of great difficulty.

From Page One

India gets new Parliament House

The second part of the ceremony began at noon when Mr. Modi, along with Mr. Birla and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, entered the new building.

Opposition boycott

MPs from 22 Opposition parties were absent. Former President Ram Nath Kovind, Supreme Court judges, Chief Ministers Y.S. Jagan Reddy, Yogi Adityanath, Eknath Shinde and Neiphu Rio and other distinguished guests attended the event.

Mr. Modi recited a Sanskrit *shloka* to underline that luck runs out for those who stop moving forward but the fate of those who keep moving continues to soar, in an oblique reference to the Opposition leaders who were criticising the construction of the new Parliament. He said the ultramodern complex was the "need of the hour" in view of the expected increase in the number of MPs. Under attack from the Opposition for bringing into Parliament the "monarchical" *Sengol* and for his alleged autocratic ways, the Prime Minister spent a significant amount of time talking about "democracy". "Democracy is not just a system for us, it is a culture, an idea, a tradition." The *Sengol*, he said, was considered a symbol of the "*kartavya path*" (path of duty), "*seva path*" (path of service) and "*rashtra path*" (path of the nation).

While President Droupadi Murmu and Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar were not invited to the event, messages from them were read out during the ceremony. Ms. Murmu said, "The architects of our Constitution imagined a nation whose form was constructed on the edifice of legislative discretion of the Parliament made up of democratically elected representatives. I am deeply happy that the symbol of Parliament's trust, Prime Minister is inaugurating the building."

Mr. Dhankhar echoed similar sentiments. "As I always say that Lok Sabha is the north star of democracy. It is the most authentic constitutional forum reflecting the mandate of people. Its decisive role in law making and shaping the destiny of Bharat is inviolable and it is the basic mantra, nectar and essence of democracy," his message read.

Mr. Birla noted that the Parliament building was constructed in a record time of two-and-a-half years. He also applauded the building's architecture, which he said showcased the excellent and diverse cultural heritage of the whole of India. "In this building, every Indian will get a glimpse of the culture of his State," he said.

Mr. Modi also unveiled a commemorative postage stamp and coin on the occasion.

Wrestlers detained, protest site cleared

The Delhi Police had increased the security around the new Parliament after the call by khap panchayats to hold a mahila mahapanchayat in front of the building was answered by the wrestlers' decision to attend it.

A tension situation prevailed at Jantar Mantar around 11.30 a.m. when the wrestlers, after addressing the media personnel, and other protesters carrying the Tiranga began to march towards the new Parliament and jumped the first set of barricades.

The protesters were stopped as they tried to cross over the second barricading, leading to a scuffle between them and the security personnel. Several protesters, including wrestlers Ms. Vinesh Phogat, Sangeeta Phogat and Ms. Malik, could be seen being dragged by women personnel as they resisted the police action.

Gopal Tiwari, one of the protest organisers, said that he and nearly 100 others were taken to the Bawana police station in outer north Delhi. "Some 100 people are here while others have been taken to police stations in other parts of Delhi such as Kalkaji, Mayur Vihar and Burari. More than 500 protesters were detained from Jantar Mantar today," he said.

Mr. Pathak, however, refuted the figure and said that "109 persons" were detained.

40 extremists killed in encounters: Biren Singh

Talking tough against Manipur's "enemies of all 34 communities" trying to break the State and disrupt peaceful coexistence, Mr. Singh said the government was firm on facing such challenges. "The government will not allow the disintegration of Manipur and uproot these armed terrorists from the State," he added.

At least four civilians have been killed by armed groups that attacked five areas in and around the Imphal Valley since 2 a.m. on Sunday, officials said. These areas are Sekmai, Sugnu, Kumbi, Phayeng and Serou. Following the attacks, the authorities in Imphal East and Imphal West districts reduced the curfew relaxation by 4.5 hours from 5 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. The relaxation hitherto was up to 4 p.m.

According to local media reports, three people were killed and more than 200 houses torched in the Sugnu area of Kakching district while one person was killed in the Sekmai area of Imphal West district. Villagers claimed gunfights were going on in more areas and unclaimed bodies were lying on the streets.

Eight political parties in Manipur have demanded the dismissal of the BJP-led coalition government in the State for its alleged failure to control the law-and-order situation.

'Assam is enjoying peace and progress'

Threat of militancy has ended and the economy is witnessing growth, says Assam Chief Minister; there is no discrimination based on religion, he adds; the BJP government is in touch with TIPRA Motha in Tripura and that in Manipur, inter-ethnic dialogue has to happen in a mature manner, he says

INTERVIEW

Himanta Biswa Sarma

Varghese K. George

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma is a key strategist of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) for the northeast and beyond. He was a star campaigner of the party in the recent Gujarat and Karnataka Assembly elections. He speaks about the conflict in Manipur, Opposition parties uniting against the BJP, and why the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) will bring communal harmony in Assam and the country. Edited excerpts:

You have completed two years as Chief Minister. What do you count as your achievements and do you have any regrets?

In two years, we could establish near complete peace in Assam. I think that is my biggest achievement. Threat of militancy has ended, there is *bhaichara* (fraternity) among all. Secondly, in the past five years, our economy grew at an average of 13%. Last year, we recorded 19% growth. Finally, we have put up an outstanding performance in all Central schemes. I have no regrets. This is the best two years in Assam's history.

Assam was so volatile that the visit of a foreign dignitary (Japan PM Shinzo Abe) had to be cancelled in 2019. What happened to anti-CAA protests and Assamese sub-nationalism?

I work with the youth and tell them that Assamese subnationalism will not be successful if it is used to keep a distance from mainland India. But if used in a positive way, it will create energy. In the past two years, we have done a lot of work to invoke Assamese identity. We brought Lachit Borphukan (a 17th-century Ahom general who defeated the Mughals) to the centre stage of Indian history. We have presented Bihu (Assam's cultural festival) in a spectacular manner to the world. So Assamese identity is about aspiration and constructive competition with other States. I am trying to transform frustration into pride, and it is working.

You were pretty tough with policing. You have demolished madrasas and even defended encounter killings?

We are the most peaceful State in terms of Hindu-Muslim unity. When I speak about banning polygamy, I get maximum support from the Assamese Muslim community. We have not demolished madrasas... people themselves demolish them when the government finds them doing anti-national activities.

Yes, we act tough when anti-national activities come to our notice. But there is no discrimination based on religion in Assam. You can see that in recruitment for government services. We are building Assam's biggest medical college in the heart of minority areas. We are winning hearts and taking all the programmes started by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the last mile, and Muslims are big beneficiaries.

Today, if you talk to the average Muslim, they will say their lives are being transformed, with better roads, healthcare and education. We are bringing Muslim girls to schools and Muslim women are getting due respect. I keep meeting Muslim delegations and listening to them. Even in comparison with south Indian States, known for communal harmony, Assam presents a better picture.

You being an open supporter of the CAA was not very popular in Assam. How big is the issue now?

Let's wait for the Supreme Court to give its judgment. Let's agree to whatever the SC says. In a democracy, we agree to disagree, or build consensus.

R.V. MOORTHY

The BJP was able to win a second term after the CAA protests. Have the concerns around Bengali speakers now mellowed?

There is a feeling that Bengali Hindus were not given due respect by mainstream Assamese people. I am not generalising that all Assamese people are against Bengali-speaking people. But there was a part in our history when we had a bitter fight – at the intellectual and street level. Now the situation is such that Assamese people are also appreciating the concerns of Bengalis. They have the right to run their educational institutions and practise their culture. Gradually, we are developing into a multilingual State. Now, Bengali is accepted and tribal languages are being respected. So, from an Assamese language-based society, we are now transforming into a multilingual State.

How do you see the violence in Manipur?

There are certain basic issues. The distribution of population is such that 70% people occupy 30% of the land. Kukis and Nagas can come to the Valley, but Meiteis cannot go to the hills. It is the same situation in Assam with regard to Bodoland. Assam is a big State and we have accepted that it is better than being a separate State. I think in Manipur, too, inter-ethnic dialogue has to happen in a mature manner. In the past five years, a dialogue was beginning to take place, but the High Court order (suggesting tribal status for the Meiteis) changed the course of events. Before the State could respond in a political manner, there were protests and violence. In the northeast, if two communities start fighting, it is not easy to end it because all are very emotive. There are many areas where the paramilitary cannot reach.

Do you think a political settlement is still possible?

Union Home Minister Amit Shah*ji* is trying his best. He is visiting Manipur on May 29 and staying there for three days. Let us hope the situation calms down. The Centre is fiercely neutral while dealing with all communities. I believe with the kind of time and energy Mr. Shah is spending in the northeast, a positive result will emerge. There is never a linear formula in the northeast. Tribal communities are friendly, but when an issue flares up, you can't resolve it by just sitting across the table over coffee.

You have a role in Tripura also. Do you expect TIPRA Motha to be part of the BJP government soon?

It is important to keep a line of communication open with the TIPRA Motha. After all he [Pradyot Bikram Manikya Debbarma of the erstwhile Tripura royal family who is chairman of the Tipraha Indigenous Progressive Regional Alliance] won 14 seats. We have to respect the people's verdict. We are engaging with him to resolve the issues of tribal people, but we have not made up our mind on making a political adjustment. If you join hands without resolving the bigger issue [of autonomy for tribal regions], people will see it as opportunism. It will not be good for the BJP and the TIPRA Motha.The Union Home Minister and the State government are in touch with the party.

South India still remains a barrier for the BJP. Do you think your Assam strategy will be useful in the south?

We lost Karnataka, but still retained 36% of the vote share. In Bengaluru, we had a spectacular result. Out of the five southern States, we are not that strong electorally only in Kerala and Tamil Nadu. We are now ready for a breakthrough in Tamil Nadu. From now on, we will keep on growing in the State. The Prime Minister's outreach to Tamils is already a success socially. Electorally, it might take a little more time. Kerala is divided into three parts: Christians, Hindus and Muslims. A large number of Hindus are ideologically with the Left. Now, new combinations are emerging. Not only Hindus but also Christians are realising the threat from *jihad* is imminent. Even Muslims are thinking about the fundamentalist element which is giving the State a negative image.

So, what do you make of all the talks of Opposition unity?

It is not organic, like it happened under Jayaprakash Narayan or V.P. Singh. Today, those who are facing cases [being probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation or the Enforcement Directorate] are uniting to save themselves. So, the people of India see that as a desperate plot to protect themselves. A combination of desperate people who are facing corruption investigations can never win people's hearts. I can clearly see 300-plus seats for Narendra Modi in 2024.

Going back to the CAA question, are you going to wait for the SC verdict? It won't be implemented before that?

Whenever the Government of India rules are notified, we will implement it.

You are not planning to revise the NRC in Assam?

We should not discuss CAA and NRC together. CAA is just about giving citizenship to people who fled neighbouring countries because they don't belong to a particular religion. So, giving citizenship to the minority population of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh has nothing to do with revision of NRC or NPR [National Population Register]. These two issues are fundamentally different and the Government of India is on record denying any move to have a nationwide NRC. We want to include Hindus, Christians, Buddhists, Jains... If they are granted citizenship of this country, then their names will be automatically entered in all documents. The so-called secular people are making this into a battle of prestige. They also know that it is not going to dramatically change anything in India, we are talking about people who are already here. No fresh people will come. Now you say, 'Give to Muslims also'.

Now, giving citizenship to Muslims means you are inviting people. Yes, suppose tomorrow we identify some Muslim as a foreigner, and Bangladesh says, 'We are not going to accept them', how can you push them away? They will be here only, but methodology will be different to deal with that situation. So, I think the Muslim community or the so-called secular people should engage in that discussion, rather than opposing the law. Every day, we see what is happening in Afghanistan, and what happened in Bangladesh. Let's bring lasting communal harmony. Most of the Muslims are not taking it as a prestige issue.

This is not a BJP agenda. Even former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh advocated for citizenship to Hindus, Sikhs, Christians suffering in Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan. This is a bipartisan issue. I don't know how it has become a partisan issue.

(*Full interview on bit.ly/3MLIgpI*)

On the draw

PM holds meeting with BJP CMs on good governance agenda

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday held a meeting with the Chief Ministers of the BJP-ruled States at the party headquarters here. The meeting is part of the BJP's good governance agenda in which Chief Ministers share their best practices in governance and implementation of various welfare schemes.

J.P. Nadda was present at the meeting. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Haryana's Manohar Lal Khattar, Assam's Himanta Biswa Sarma, Madhya Pradesh's Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Uttarakhand's Pushkar Singh Dhami also attended the meeting.

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis was also present.

Savarkar could not tolerate mindset of slavery, says Modi

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday hailed Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar, saying his personality exuded strength and his fearless and self-respecting nature could not tolerate the mindset of slavery. Paying homage to Savarkar on his birth anniversary during the 101st *Mann ki Baat* broadcast, Mr. Modi said his sacrifice, courage and determination continued to inspire us.

Mr. Modi also paid homage to Kabir, whose birth anniversary is on June 4, saying the mystic-poet opposed every evil practice that divided people and tried to awaken society.

Paying tributes to Savarkar, Mr. Modi said, "Today is the birth anniversary of Veer Savarkar. The stories related to his sacrifice, courage and resolve inspire us all even today. I cannot forget the day when I went to the cell in Andaman where Savarkar served the sentence of '*Kala paani*'.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paying tribute to Savarkar on Sunday. PTI

"Savarkar's personality exuded strength and magnanimity. His fearless and self-respecting nature could not tolerate the mindset of slavery. Not only in the freedom movement, whatever Savarkar did for social equality and social justice is remembered even today," Mr. Modi said.

Mr. Modi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, and Union Ministers paid floral tributes to Savarkar in the Central Hall of the old Parliament building.

Opposition parties may meet in Patna on June 12

Press Trust of India
PATNA

The much-awaited meeting of parties opposed to the BJP may be held in Patna on June 12, according to hints that emanated from a meeting of Bihar's ruling JD(U) here on Sunday.

While no significant office-bearer confirmed or denied the same, many present at the meeting said on condition of anonymity that the disclosure was made by Chief Minister and JD(U) veteran Nitish Kumar himself.

Mr. Kumar has been pitching for "Opposition unity" ever since he snapped ties with the BJP in August last year.

Mr. Kumar, who is heading an alliance government that includes the RJD, the Congress as well as the Left, has reached out to leaders such as Arvind Kejriwal, Mamata Banerjee and Akhilesh Yadav, all of whom are opposed to the BJP but not very comfortable with the grand old party either.

Ceremony unfurls: Prime Minister Narendra Modi receiving the historical *Sengol* (sceptre) from seers from Tamil Nadu in New Delhi on Sunday; Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman and Pralhad Joshi and other dignitaries standing for the National Anthem; the Prime Minister launching a commemorative coin with Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh; and the Prime Minister felicitating some workers who were involved in the construction of the new Parliament. ANI, PTI

An opulent House: art lines ₹200-crore interiors

The building is centrally air-conditioned and closed; features include a digitised voting system, well-engineered acoustics and state-of-the-art audiovisual systems in the two chambers

Revamped glory: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the dignitaries at the inauguration of the new Parliament House on Sunday. ANI

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

An artistic interpretation of a section of the night sky over New Delhi on January 26, 1950, the day India became a republic, and a Foucault pendulum inside the new Parliament building drew crowds on Sunday, with several MPs and other dignitaries posing for pictures against them.

The Foucault pendulum, named after French physicist Léon Foucault, is used to demonstrate the earth's rotation. At the latitude of Parliament, it takes 49 hours, 59 minutes and 18 seconds for the pendulum to complete one rotation.

Above the pendulum, on the ceiling, six individual panels depict the artistic interpretation of the section of the night sky and celestial bodies present over New Delhi on the midnight of January 26, 1950.

The new Parliament is dotted with many such installations, murals and other works of art. Roughly ₹200 crore was spent to decorate the interiors, an area of 64,500 square metres.

'Akhand Bharat'

A photograph of a mural depicting what is believed to be a map of ancient India marking important kingdoms and cities of the past extending up to the present-day Pakistan has gone viral. Sharing the picture, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi tweeted: "The resolve is clear – Akhand Bharat."

The gallery, *Shapatya Deergha*, has murals on protected monuments under the Archaeological Survey of India and on the UNESCO list. Different yoga *asana*s are digitally projected on the top of these installations.

The new Parliament building varies in several ways from the old one. The entire building is centrally air-conditioned and closed, though there are skylights for sunlight to stream in at intervals.

On Sunday, after the inaugural function ended, MPs and guests fanned out. Much of the building still needs finishing touches, with unscripted sandstone floors and beige benches lining the walls still wrapped in plastic. The building remains a maze for the first-time visitor in the absence of signboards, and most of the security staff were still clueless about the layout.

The Ministers' chambers can be accessed through corridors running parallel to the triangular boundary of the building. Their chambers are fitted with motion sensor lights and have dark wood panelling. These rooms are the only ones that open to a balcony. The only other open space is the central courtyard, which has a banyan tree at its centre, and encircling it are lounges for MPs and a library. Each of the three entrances of the building is also decked up with art.

The Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha chambers boast a digitised voting system, well-engineered acoustics, and state-of-the-art audiovisual systems.

The building has three ceremonial foyers where huge brass images of Mahatma Gandhi, Chanakya, Gargi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, B.R. Ambedkar, and the chariot wheel from the Sun Temple at Konark are on display.

The interiors of the Lok Sabha are based on the theme of the national bird, peacock, while the Rajya Sabha depict the national flower, lotus.

(With PTI inputs)

It's self-glorification and coronation: Opposition

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress-led Opposition parties boycotted Sunday's inauguration of the new Parliament building, likening it to a "coronation" and a "self-glorifying" event conducted with utter disdain for the scientific temper.

In protest over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decision to inaugurate the new building himself, without even inviting President Droupadi Murmu, as many as 22 Opposition parties boycotted the event.

"Parliament is the voice of the people! The Prime Minister is treating the inauguration of the Parliament House as a coronation," former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said in a tweet in Hindi.

'Three lies'

In a similar vein, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said that democracy does not run from buildings, but rather functions through the voice of the people. "The three lies of the BJP-RSS rulers now stand exposed before the country – democracy, nationalism and *Beti Bachao*," Mr. Kharge tweeted, comparing the exclusion of President Murmu from the event to the "forcible" removal of wrestlers protesting at the Jantar Mantar as they were trying to march towards Parliament.

"At the foundation stone laying ceremony of the new Parliament building, then Hon'ble President Sh. Ram Nath Kovind was kept away from the ceremony.

Cueing in: Dignitaries at the inauguration ceremony of the new Parliament House in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI

At its inauguration, President Droupadi Murmu has been sidelined," said K.C. Venugopal, Congress general secretary.

"It is the upper caste, anti-backward mindset of the RSS because of which they are denied the respect that their high constitutional office deserves. Their deliberate exclusion shows PM Modi will use them as tokens for his electoral politics, but will not allow them to be part of such significant and historic occasions," Mr. Venugopal tweeted.

Senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh said that a "self-glorifying authoritarian Prime Minister with utter disdain for Parliamentary procedures, who rarely attends Parliament or engages in it, inaugurates the new Parliament building in 2023."

Communist Party of India (Marxist) general secretary Sitaram Yechury said the event declared the advent of a "new India" which comes in the absence of the President, Vice-President and Opposition parties. "*Sengol* belongs to the period of feudal monarchies, emperors and kings. Indian people overthrew such bondage and ushered in a secular democratic republic where every citizen is equal," he said, adding that the sceptre had no role in a democracy where people elected their government.

The Communist Party of India's D. Raja said that while "restoring" the *Sengol* to its glory, the Prime Minister forgot the very foundations of the Indian republic.

NCP president Sharad Pawar said that while Nehru had envisaged an India built with a scientific temperament, what happened at the inauguration of the new Parliament building was totally different.

The Trinamool Congress, which was one of the first parties to have announced its boycott of the inauguration, said that the event was akin to an "I only love myself day".

Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati, who was among the few non-BJP leaders who had opposed the boycott, congratulated the government for the new Parliament building and said that it should be used in India's interest.

RJD compares new building to a coffin; BJP hits back

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Twitter jibe by the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) on Sunday comparing the new Parliament building to a "coffin" elicited a sharp reaction from the BJP which said the social media post was "condemnable" and that a case of treason should be registered against the ruling party in Bihar.

"*Yeh kya hai*? [What is this?]," the RJD asked in the tweet with a photo of the new Parliament and a coffin side by side. The RJD is among the parties which boycotted the inauguration.

The BJP's Bihar unit reacted by saying, "The first picture is your future and the second is of India. Understood?" The new Parliament building is triangular in shape.

BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said the RJD tweet was "disgusting". Another spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said the coffin belonged to the RJD and Parliament to the country.

"This is the level to which they have fallen. Disgusting. This will prove to be the final nail in the coffin of RJD's politics. *Trikon* or *Tribhuj* [triangle] has much significance in Indian system. By the way, the coffin is hexagonal or has six-sided polygon," Mr. Poonawalla tweeted.

The Vishwa Hindu Parishad too called it a "gross insult" to the temple of democracy and a "serious attack on public belief".

Focus now shifts to V-P Enclave, new PMO, MPs' chambers

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

With the new Parliament building inaugurated, the focus now shifts to the construction of the Vice-President Enclave, Common Central Secretariat buildings, Defence Enclave, MPs' chambers, and Prime Minister's new residence and office.

The new Parliament building is the second project that has been completed. The first was the redevelopment of Central Vista avenue stretching from Vijay Chowk to India Gate.

The plan for the redevelopment of the Central Vista includes the new Parliament building that was inaugurated on Sunday.

Infrastructure firm Larsen & Toubro Limited is constructing the Executive Enclave housing the PMO, Cabinet Secretariat, India House and the National Security Council Secretariat at an estimated cost of ₹1,189 crore. The company was awarded the tender in November last year and the project is slated to be completed in 24 months. The firm is also constructing the first three buildings of the Common Central Secretariat. Under the Common Central Secretariat, the government plans to construct 10 buildings that will house Ministries and other offices.

Under the Common Central Secretariat, the government plans to construct 10 buildings.

A Foucault pendulum swings inside the new Parliament

EXPLAINER

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

One of the features of the new Parliament building in New Delhi, inaugurated on Sunday, is a Foucault pendulum suspended from its 'Constitutional Gallery' area. It has been designed and installed by the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM), Kolkata.

The Foucault pendulum is named for Léon Foucault (1819-1868), the French physicist who devised the apparatus in the 19th century. It is a deceptively simple device used to illustrate the earth's rotation. At the time Foucault set up the first public display of the pendulum, the earth's rotation was a well-established fact.

His achievement, instead, was to provide a proof that didn't involve intricate astronomical observations and calculations.

It is a deceptively simple device used to illustrate the earth's rotation.

The pendulum consists of a bob suspended at the end of a long, strong wire from a fixed point in the ceiling. As the pendulum swings, the imaginary surface across which the wire and the bob swipe is called the plane of the swing.

If the pendulum is installed at the North Pole, it will basically be swinging as the earth rotates 'below'. But someone standing on the earth's surface doesn't notice the planet's rotation (without looking up at the sky from time to time); instead, to them, the plane of the swing will seem to rotate by a full circle as the earth completes one rotation.

If the pendulum is installed over the equator, the plane won't appear to shift at all because it will be rotating along with the earth. On any other latitude, the plane will shift through 360 degrees in "one sidereal day divided by the sine of the latitude of its location", as per a Brown University note.

A Foucault pendulum is not a simple matter of setting up a pendulum with large parts. It must be designed, installed, and set swinging in such a way that the bob's motion is influenced to the extent possible only by gravity.

In 1991, the then-new Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune, commissioned the country's first Foucault pendulum for public display from the NCSM. After several studies and failed tests, the NCSM installed the set-up in 1993.

'Parties have disrespected democracy, V.D. Savarkar'

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday said that political parties which had boycotted the inauguration of the new Parliament had shown "deep disrespect" towards India's democracy and towards Hindutva ideologue V.D. Savarkar.

Mr. Shinde, who, along with Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, was present at the inauguration of the new building, later offered tributes to Savarkar at the Maharashtra Sadan in New Delhi on the occasion of his 140th birth anniversary.

"Political parties not participating in the inauguration today have shown deep disrespect towards India's democracy and Savarkarji. Today's democracy has crossed the *lakshman rekha* laid by political dynasties," he tweeted.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice dated : 26-05-2023

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer (General Services), Palakkad Division acting and invites E-Tenders through official portal of Indian Railways from experienced contractors for the under mentioned works.

Sl. No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of Work	Approximate Cost (₹)	Date of Opening
1	J-E-20-2023-24-W	**Feroke** - Improvements to illumination and power supply arrangements in connection with development of stations under Amrit Bharat Service Scheme - Electrical arrangements.	72,26,829/-	16-06-2023 11:00 Hrs.
2	J-E-21-2023-24-W	**Parappanangadi** - Improvements to illumination and power supply arrangements in connection with development of stations under Amrit Bharat Service Scheme - Electrical arrangements.	87,51,247/-	16-06-2023 11:00 Hrs.

Complete details & Tender Document will be available at **http://www.ireps.gov.in** Corrigendum if any, will be notified in website only and it will not be published in newspaper.

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CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No. KMSCL/EP/9320/2023 Dated : 26.05.2023

e-TENDER NOTICE (Running Contract)

Online bids are invited for the supply and installation of the following equipment for various Government healthcare institutions across Kerala

Sl. No	Tender No.	Description	Online Pre-Bid Meeting	Last date of Online submission
1.	T495/2023	Micro Incinerator, Micro Centrifuge, Binocular Microscope LED with Camera	N. A.	09.06.2023 05.00 p.m.
2.	T496(R)/2023	Sample Mixer, Transcutaneous Bilirubinometer, Fume Hood, OT Light LED with Camera TypeB, Puretone Audiometer Model B	N. A.	09.06.2023 05.00 p.m.

QUOTATION

Sealed Quotations are invited for the supply of the following items

3.	Q112/2023	Alchohol Thermometer, Incubator Dry Bath, Hot Plate	N.A.	09.06.2023 11.30 a.m.

State Public Sector undertakings and MSMEs registered in the State or registered outside the state satisfying the policy of Government of India are exempted from remittance of tender document cost and EMD subject to the submission of valid documents, provided all the offered products are manufactured by them. Tender documents and all other information related to tender and bidding process can be downloaded from the website www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

Sd/- Managing Director (Tender Inviting Authority)

INBRIEF

Kashmiri Pandits celebrate annual Kheer Bhawani mela

Hundreds of Kashmiri Pandits on Sunday paid their obeisance at the famous Ragnya Devi temple in Ganderbal district in the Valley and celebrated the annual Kheer Bhawani mela. The temple witnessed massive crowds of devotees, most of them Kashmiri Pandits, who made the journey from across the country. The mela, a symbol of communal harmony, passed off peacefully as the administration had made elaborate arrangements, including security-related, for the devotees. Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti, who also paid obeisance at the temple, said that she prayed for the dignified return of the Kashmiri Pandits to the Valley. PTI

Rahul gets new passport, set to begin his U.S. tour today

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi received a new ordinary passport on Sunday, two days after a local court granted its "no objection" to the issuance of the same, sources said. The former Congress president is set to travel to San Francisco in the United States on Monday evening. He had applied for an ordinary passport after surrendering the old diplomatic passport issued to him when he was a Member of Parliament. Starting with San Francisco where he is scheduled to interact with students at Stanford University, Mr. Gandhi will address a press conference and have meetings with lawmakers and think tanks in Washington DC. PTI

'NIA seeking death penalty for Yasin Malik deeply disturbing'

The Hurriyat Conference on Sunday said the National Investigation Agency (NIA) seeking the death penalty for Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JLF) chief Yasin Malik was "deeply disturbing" for the people of J&K. The NIA has approached the Delhi High Court seeking capital punishment for the separatist leader, in a terror funding case. "Unfortunately, such directives and decrees are brought in by the authorities who claim peace and development as their agenda, which seems to be a deliberate attempt to provoke and intimidate people and add to their concerns and fears," it said in a statement. PTI

ISRO to launch navigation satellite on board GSLV today

Scientists at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) commenced at 7.12 a.m. on Sunday the 27.5-hour countdown to the launch of a navigation satellite on board a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) rocket from Sriharikota on Monday. The space agency is all geared up to launch the second-generation navigation satellite series, a significant launch which would ensure the continuity of NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) services – an Indian regional satellite navigation system, similar to GPS, providing accurate and real-time navigation in India and up to 1,500 km around the mainland. PTI

India sees reduction in stunting; but wasting, obesity are concerns: report

1.6 crore fewer stunted children aged under five in 2022 than in 2012, show Joint Malnutrition Estimates released by UNICEF, WHO and World Bank; prevalence of obesity marginally increased during the decade, report says

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Commensurate with global and regional trends, India continues to show a reduction in stunting and recorded 1.6 crore fewer stunted children under five years in 2022 than in 2012, according to the Joint Malnutrition Estimates released by the UNICEF, the WHO and the World Bank.

However, wasting continues to remain a concern and so does growing levels of obesity.

Stunting among children under five years in India dropped from a prevalence rate of 41.6% in 2012 to 31.7% in 2022 with the numbers dropping from 52 lakh to 36 lakh. This was accompanied by India's share of the global burden of stunting declining from 30% to 25% in the past decade.

The overall prevalence of wasting in 2022 was 18.7% in India, with a share of 49% in the global burden. The prevalence of obesity marginally increased in a decade from 2.2% in 2012 to 2.8% in 2022 with the numbers growing to 31.8 lakh from 27.5 lakh, thereby contributing to 8.8% of the global share. But the overall classification for obesity is low and much lower than the global prevalence of 5.6%.

Globally, stunting declined from a prevalence rate of 26.3% in 2012 to 22.3% in 2022.

There was no improvement on the weight issue worldwide, as its prevalence rate grew from 5.5% to 5.6%. There was a global prevalence of 6.8% in 2022, but there is no comparison available for past years as it is based on national-level country prevalence data.

The JME report says there is insufficient progress to reach the 2025 World Health Assembly global nutrition targets and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 targets and only about one-third of all countries are 'on track' to halve the number of children affected by stunting by 2030. Even fewer countries are expected to achieve the 2030 target of 3% prevalence for overweight.

In line with NFHS

The decline in stunting in India is commensurate with National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 (2019-2021) data which estimated its prevalence at 35.5% as against 38% in NFHS-4 (2016) and 48% in NFHS-3 (2006).

"This is the first time I noted in a global report that the problem has started to shift from South Asia. The relative contribution of India's global burden from 29 to 24 was interesting. NFHS-5 showed evidence of continued reduction of stunting and instances of underweight children, though anaemia was disappointing. It also showed an improvement in access to health services – family planning, ante-natal care, deworming, breastfeeding counselling," said Arjan Wagt, Chief of Nutrition and UNICEF India Deputy Representative, Programmes, adding that he remained hopeful of a further improvement in NFHS-6.

Wasting though is an outlier, Mr. Wagt explains. "In the past few years, we have learnt more about it. It is a challenging indicator, which assesses acute malnutrition over short periods... In India, on the basis of our analysis of a small cohort, we have found that two-thirds of children at 12 or 24 months had wasting at birth or at one month of age. This means two-thirds of the wasting is caused by maternal malnutrition."

Persisting challenges

The Joint Malnutrition Estimates underscore India's mixed progress in battling malnutrition

- India saw 1.6 crore fewer stunted children under five years in 2022 compared with 2012
- Despite reduced stunting, wasting remains an issue with a prevalence rate of 18.7% in 2022 in India
- Prevalence of overweight children increased from 2.2% in 2012 to 2.8% in 2022 in India
- Global stunting declined from 26.3% in 2012 to 22.3% in 2022, but obesity prevalence increased from 5.5% to 5.6%

Congress will make Centre implement OPS: Gehlot

Press Trust of India
JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Sunday said the Congress will "compel" the Centre to implement the old pension scheme (OPS) in the entire country, asserting that the committee on the new pension scheme (NPS) was constituted under pressure mounted by the party.

He also announced an increase in old-age pension from ₹1,000 to ₹1,500 in Rajasthan if the Congress retains power in the State.

"Under the chairmanship of Finance Secretary, the Centre has formed a committee to find out a way forward for what can be done after combining OPS and NPS. They formed the committee after we mounted pressure," he said, and added that OPS will not be reversed. "If our government comes again, then we will uphold it. We will compel the Centre to implement it in the entire country," Mr. Gehlot said.

'From prevalence in eight States in 2001, dengue now a nationwide infection'

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Faced with a shortage of entomologists, a trickier vector, increased travel, and less than optimal public participation for prevention, the infection geography of dengue, which was restricted to eight States in 2001, currently covers all the States and Union Territories in India. Dengue has now breached the country's last bastion, Ladakh (with two cases in 2022), senior health officials say.

As the country gets ready to welcome the southwest monsoon, which is associated with the rise of certain diseases, including malaria, dengue and zika, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) confirmed that dengue's infection geography has grown.

"During the past two decades, there has been a significant geographical spread of dengue with an 11-fold increase and repeated outbreaks. ...Rural areas contributed approximately 32% of the total cases in 2015-16 and have increased to 41%-45% now," experts maintained.

The WHO says half of the world population is at risk. AFP

Half of world at risk

The World Health Organization estimates the global incidence of dengue has grown over recent decades, with half of the world population now at risk. The ICMR said that this risk from dengue, which is now endemic in more than 100 countries, has been propelled by several factors, including climate change, increased urbanisation and increased travel.

Himmat Singh, from the ICMR-National Institute of Malaria Research, notes that the problems in the control of the Aedes-borne disease are manifold. "Day-biting habit, multiple biting, long incubation period, fast transport, eggs retained up to one year, container breeding, human environment, and intermittent water supply and poor waste management at construction sites add to the problem," Dr. Singh said.

According to the Central government's paper on dengue outbreaks in India, the dengue vector is very different from the malaria vector and so, bio-environmental strategies alone will not work. This, coupled with the shortage of entomologists in the country, works to help the spread of dengue.

ICMR officials said that besides the work on vaccines, they were also looking at increasing awareness and promoting prevention, people's participation, and the use of the latest technology, including satellite imaging and drones to map vulnerable areas.

Delhi HC sets up panel to implement Centre's rare diseases policy

Soibam Rocky Singh
NEW DELHI

Court orders that treatment stopped from lack of funding be taken up on an 'urgent basis'

The Delhi High Court has set up a five-member panel to implement the Centre's rare diseases policy in an efficient manner and ensure that its benefits reach patients.

The National Rare Diseases Committee will also look into the case of these patients, enrolled with the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, and the manner in which their treatment can begin.

Under the National Policy for Rare Diseases, 2021, hundreds of patients – mostly children – are registered with the "digital portal for crowdfunding and voluntary donations for patients of rare diseases by the Union Health Ministry. However, the government has been unable to fully finance their treatment due to high costs, resource constraints, and competing health priorities.

Justice Prathiba M. Singh, in her order dated May 15, observed, "...there is a need for some urgent steps to be taken in close coordination between the medical community, the providers of therapies for rare diseases and governmental agencies".

"Under the current framework, the Centres for Excellence are not centrally coordinated, leading to lack of timely availability and adequate therapies for patients with rare diseases," she added.

The court ordered the panel to explore procurement of therapies and drugs, and the creation of associated logistical framework to administer treatment. It has been hearing a batch of petitions by rare disease patients and their caretakers, which contend that medicines and therapies are exorbitantly expensive.

Over the years, the number of patients on the Health Ministry's list has risen to 574, but mere registration does not guarantee timely treatment.

Tarush Goel, a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Amroha, suffers from Hunter Syndrome (MPS II), a genetic disorder that causes skeletal abnormalities, respiratory issues and other problems. His father, Abhishek Goel, said they had visited AIIMS several times, but the doctors had told him there were no medicines to treat the six-year-old.

"Now, we are not giving him any medication or treatment," he added.

On December 2021, the Delhi HC had urged the Centre to look into the matter, saying that patients identified under the National Policy for Rare Diseases cannot be made to suffer due to lack of funds.

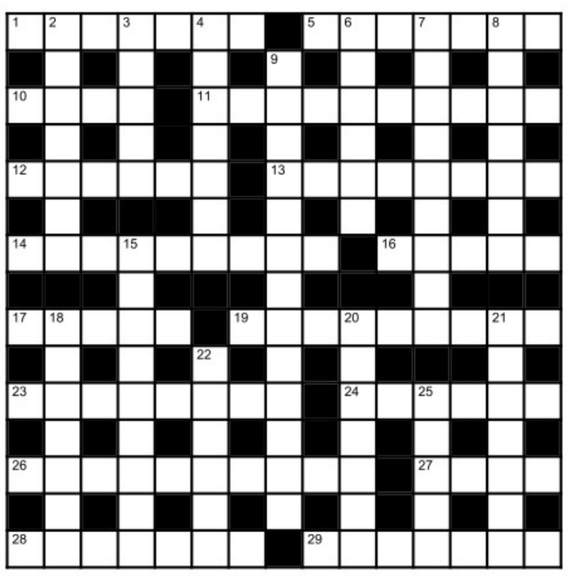
In its latest order, the High Court ordered the National Rare Diseases' Committee to take up on an "urgent basis" the immediate requirement of patients to commence the treatment stopped due to lack of funding.

TH CROSSWORD + 13877

(set by Avtaar)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Winds in the outskirts of Zaire - Polish youngster heading for safety (7)
5 Courses of drug overdoses (7)
10 Indian island's providing refuge to British bird (4)
11 Fine wordplay by Avtaar with definition on the right, included in this cryptic (10)
12 Diamond pattern in the middle of Holy Grail reflecting energy (6)
13 Best time to slip out of public prayer in church (8)
14 Yield is poor? Have focus (9)
16 Order review of detectives visiting discharged extremist (5)
17 In the morning son follows live broadcasts (5)
19 Where soldiers battle, fighting almost innately for suppressing onset of adversaries (5,4)
23 With ice-pack, husband normalised pulse (8)
24 River in US state, near the sea (6)
26 Consumptive, loose culture around Britain starts to affect refugees (10)
27 Partners charged with fine remained alert (4)
28 Scoundrel is held captive by Maoist in Kerala (7)
29 Mother and young boy caught in official delay at the borders (3,4)

Down

2 Obstruct some coming back to grab meals (7)
3 Thick, hot atmosphere shrouds university (5)
4 Curb on journalists (7)
6 One taking time out from festival gets more relaxed (6)
7 Bloodthirsty Joker beheaded in concealed, uninhabited atoll (9)
8 Go-getting inspector caught entertaining retrograde lots (7)
9 Chief of section quits peacekeepers' commission because Board is not agreeable (13)
15 Tell all about old head of Middle Eastern dynasty consuming ecstasy (4,5)
18 Tax case of umpires taken over by former bowler, say (7)
20 In Rome, X maybe irrational, unreal and, ultimately, random (7)
21 North Dakota chains dealing with winter sports equipment designed to keep one from falling (7)
22 Short bet, primarily in exchange for coins (6)
25 Scrap on the base of the large spiked wheel (5)

SUDOKU

			4		1	3		
	7			3	9	1		6
				8			7	9
1		8	7			6		
		2			3	9		7
5	2			6				
3		6	5	1			9	
		1	9		2			

No.SS5813 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	5	9	8	2	4	1	7	3
3	8	2	9	7	1	4	5	6
7	1	4	3	6	5	9	8	2
1	3	5	4	8	9	2	6	7
9	7	8	2	3	6	5	1	4
2	4	6	5	1	7	8	3	9
8	9	1	7	4	3	6	2	5
4	6	7	1	5	2	3	9	8
5	2	3	6	9	8	7	4	1

FAITH

Glory of Srirangam

As far as material benefits are concerned, the more we derive pleasure, the more we become averse to them over a period of time. But in the case of divine ecstasy, the more we enjoy, the more we become elated. Except Sri Vaikuntam, all the places in the universe are mixed with comforts and sorrows. It is said that only in Sri Vaikuntam can we ever enjoy divine bliss without a tinge of heartache.

Pleased with the ferocious penance of Brahma, the God of creation, Lord Narayana manifested in the form of Archa as Sri Ranganatha with Ranga Vimanam, and the abode of the Lord, Srirangam, is called Bhuloka Vaikuntam. Brahmandapuranam describes the glory of Lord Ranganatha in 10 chapters. "Aadhyam Proktham Swayam Vyaktham Ranga Vimanam".

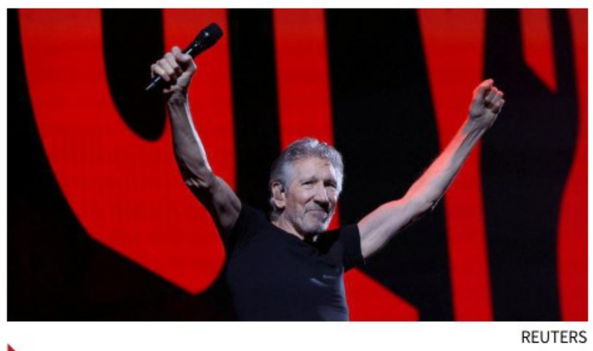
God also resides in Archa form in our pooja room, however small it may be, with the same amount of happiness as in Paramapadham, Srirangam and Thiruvenkatamalai, Sri Parasara Badri Bhattar Swamy said in a discourse.

Thondaradipodiazhwar says in 'Thirumalai' that chanting the name of Lord Ranga will clear off our sins and will prevent us from entering hell. The great acharya, Sri Parasara Bhattar, says on our behalf that Lord Narayana suffered a lot to save the elephant Gajendra from the clutches of one crocodile but, "I am caught by five crocodiles in the form of the sensual faculties. Oh Lord Ranganatha! I do not know how much you would suffer to save me."

It is said that, as holy as the Ganges, the river Cauvery embraces both sides of the temple and washes the divine feet of the Lord everyday. It is good to take a dip in that river to cleanse our sins.

BERLIN

Jewish groups to protest against Roger Waters concert in Frankfurt



REUTERS

Several Jewish groups, politicians and an alliance of civil society groups are planning a protest against a concert by Roger Waters in Frankfurt on Sunday. They accuse the Pink Floyd co-founder of anti-semitism. Waters has also drawn their ire for his support of the BDS movement, which calls for boycotts against Israel. AP

MADRID

Spain votes in local elections that put pressure on PM Pedro Sanchez

AP

Spaniards were voting Sunday in local and regional polls seen as a barometer for a year-end general election which surveys suggest Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez will lose, heralding a return of the right. The polls find Sanchez facing several obstacles such as voter fatigue, soaring inflation and falling purchasing power. AFP

MOGADISHU

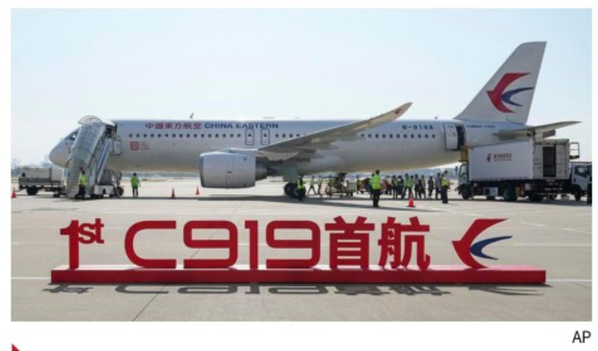
Somalia to introduce direct universal suffrage in 2024

AFP

Somalia's government and federal member states said on Sunday that direct universal suffrage would be introduced with local elections set for June 2024. The move follows a pledge by President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud in March to end a complex indirect system in place since 1969. AFP

BEIJING

China's homegrown passenger jet makes maiden commercial flight



AP

China's first domestically produced passenger jet made its maiden commercial flight on Sunday, a milestone event in the nation's decades-long effort to compete with Western rivals in the air. Beijing hopes the C919 commercial jetliner will challenge foreign models though many of its parts are sourced from abroad. AFP

Erdogan returns to Turkey's helm after winning run-off

With 99% of ballot boxes opened, unofficial results showed Mr. Erdogan with 52% of the vote in the presidential elections, compared with 48% for his challenger, Kemal Kilicdaroglu

Associated Press
ANKARA

Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan won re-election on Sunday, extending his increasingly authoritarian rule into a third decade in a country reeling from high inflation and the aftermath of an earthquake that leveled entire cities.

With nearly 99% of ballot boxes opened, unofficial results from competing news agencies showed Mr. Erdogan with 52% of the vote, compared with 48% for his challenger, Kemal Kilicdaroglu.

In his first comments since the polls closed, Mr. Erdogan spoke to supporters on a campaign bus outside his home in Istanbul.

"I thank each member of our nation for entrusting me with the responsibility to govern this country once again for the upcoming five years," he said. He ridiculed his challenger for his loss, saying "bye bye bye, Kemal," as supporters booed.

"The only winner today is Turkey," Mr. Erdogan said. He promised to work hard for Turkey's second century. The country marks its centennial this year.

With a third term, Mr. Erdogan will have an even stronger hand domestically and internationally, and the election results will have implications far beyond Ankara. Turkey stands at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, and it plays a key role in NATO.

Mr. Erdogan, who has been at Turkey's helm for 20 years, came just short of victory in the first round of elections on May 14. It was the first time he failed to win an election outright, but he made up for it on Sunday.

In focus: Recep Tayyip Erdogan, centre, addresses his supporters following early exit poll results in Istanbul on Sunday. REUTERS

Adverse conditions

His performance came despite crippling inflation and the effects of a devastating earthquake three months ago.

Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban congratulated Mr. Erdogan for an "unquestionable election victory," and Qatar's ruler, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani wished the Turkish President success. Other congratulations poured in from Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Libya, Algeria, Serbia and Uzbekistan.

Biden, Republicans arrive at last-minute agreement to raise U.S. debt ceiling

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

Top Republican leader Kevin McCarthy and President Joe Biden announced a deal on Saturday to raise the debt ceiling, dragging the United States from the precipice of default with only a few days left to go.

The Congress will vote on the deal to extend the government borrowing authority on Wednesday, just shy of the June 5 "X-date" when the Treasury estimates the government will no longer be able to pay its bills, plunging the world's biggest economy into turmoil.

"After weeks of negotiations we have come to an agreement in principle," Mr. McCarthy, the Speaker of the Republican-held House of Representatives, said.

Mr. McCarthy, who spoke with Mr. Biden on Saturday to close the deal, said he would consult again with the President on Sunday and oversee final drafting of the Bill. The House will "then be voting on it on Wednesday."

Sticking points: Kevin McCarthy, left, said he would consult again with Joe Biden on Sunday about the drafting of the final Bill. AFP

Work left

Despite the breakthrough, Mr. McCarthy cautioned there was "still a lot of work to do" in getting Congress to give its backing.

Raising the debt ceiling allows the government to keep borrowing money and remain solvent.

According to U.S. media reports, the outline of the deal includes freeing up the debt ceiling for two years, meaning there will be no need for negotiations in 2024, when the nation is in full presidential election swing.

Largest drone attack by Russia on Kyiv founding day

Associated Press
KYIV

Ukraine's capital was subjected to the largest drone attack since the start of Russia's war, local officials said, as Kyiv prepared to mark the anniversary of its founding on Sunday. At least one person was killed, but officials said scores of drones were shot down.

Russia launched the "most massive attack" on the city overnight Saturday with Iranian-made Shahed drones. The attack lasted more than five hours, with air defense reportedly shooting down more than 40 drones.

Kyiv Day marks the anniversary of the city's official founding. The day is usually celebrated with live concerts, street fairs, exhibitions and fireworks.

The timing of the drone attacks was likely not coincidental, officials said.

Pak. ruling coalition rejects Imran's offer for talks

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's ruling coalition rejected former Prime Minister Imran Khan's offer for dialogue, saying that talks were held with politicians, not terrorists.

The development came as Mr. Khan constituted a seven-member team to hold talks with the government – for developing consensus on a date for elections. A crackdown launched after the May 9 violent protests has led to dozens of key leaders from Mr. Khan's PTI party jumping ship every day.

A 'green' out of the blue

Sudden spectacle: A stretch of Venice's Grand Canal turned bright green on Sunday, prompting the police to investigate amid speculation about a stunt by environmentalists. Gondoliers waded through the phosphorescent waters, while tourists took photographs. AP

U.K. journalists and publishers to boycott Tory conference over fees

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Several bodies representing journalists and publishers in the U.K. have decided to boycott, for now, the U.K. Conservative Party's annual meeting in the autumn, following the party's decision to charge journalists fees for attendance. A coalition of industry bodies, including the Foreign Press Association (FPA), called the measure "undemocratic" and "detrimental" to societal interests.

"In a democratic society, all party conferences are of considerable political and public importance and, as such, there should be no charging barrier for journalists to be able to act as the eyes and ears of the public by freely reporting at such events," a statement by the FPA, the News Media Association, the Society of Editors and the News Media Coalition said. The Conservative Party began charging fees for press attendance since last year.

£137 fees

Industry representatives have challenged the £137 conference fee. The decision by newsrooms to withhold from registering for this event was also being supported by the Press Gallery of Westminster political correspondents, according to the media coalition.

The statement cited the government's own recent contention that it was supporting press freedoms – a claim at odds with the reality of charging journalists access fees for its main annual event.

"As a government we are taking steps to increase press freedoms and make sure journalists can do their jobs effectively,' Lucy Frazer , a government minister in charge of the media, sports and culture portfolio, told the Enders Media & Telecoms Conference last week, as per the statement.

No other political party in the U.K. charges journalists fees for accreditation, the coalition said.

Justine Triet becomes only the third woman to win Palme d'Or at Cannes

Agence France-Presse
CANNES

A tense courtroom drama about a writer accused of her husband's murder took the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival on Saturday, capping a strong year for women filmmakers.

French director Justine Triet became only the third woman ever to win the festival's top prize with the icy tale *Anatomy of a Fall*, led by a riveting performance from German actress Sandra Hueller.

Triet used her acceptance speech to slam the government of President Emmanuel Macron for the "shocking" way it imposed a law increasing the retirement age in France.

But she said she was "deeply touched."

"I am very pleased to be the third woman who has gotten this prize – things are truly changing and for the best," she told reporters.

Record for women

There were a record seven women among the 21 entries competing at Cannes this year, and many featured complex female characters.

Anatomy of a Fall included a standout performance by "Messi" – the border collie who plays a pivotal role in the film, and won the Palm Dog award a day earlier.

Though Hueller did not win an award – Cannes traditionally only gives one prize per film – she was arguably the big winner on the night since she also starred in *The Zone of Interest*, based on the book by Martin Amis and directed by Britain's Jonathan Glazer, which took the runner-up Grand Prix.

The harrowing and unique look at the private life of a Nazi family at the Auschwitz concentration camp never shows the horrors of the camp directly, leaving them implied by disturbing background noises and small visual details.

Hueller chillingly portrays the wife of the Nazi commandant, happily tending her garden and boasting she is "the queen of Auschwitz".

The jury of nine film professionals was led by last year's winner Ruben Ostlund (*Triangle of Sadness*), and included Hollywood stars Paul Dano and Brie Larson.

Big feat: Justine Triet poses with The Palme D'Or Award at the 76th annual Cannes film festival in France on Saturday. GETTY IMAGES

"We had a lot of intense, fun discussions," Ostlund told reporters, adding that it was "a very strong lineup".

Best director went to Vietnamese-born French filmmaker Tran Anh Hung for *The Pot-au-Feu*, a lustrous homage to French cuisine that was loved by many international critics but seemed to leave most local pundits cold.

He thanked his star Juliette Binoche, saying she was "quite extraordinary in the film".

Best actor went to Japan's Koji Yakusho for *Perfect Days*. He thanked German director Wim Wenders for creating "a magnificent character" in the touching tale about a Tokyo toilet cleaner with a complex backstory.

There was a surprise choice for best actress in Turkey's Merve Dizdar for *About Dry Grasses*, the latest from previous Palme-winner Nuri Bilge Ceylan.

Presenting the Palme d'Or, Hollywood legend Jane Fonda recalled the first time she came to Cannes in 1963.

"There were no women directors competing at that time and it never even occurred to us that there was something wrong with that," she said.

"We have come a long way."

The third-place Jury Prize went to Aki Kaurismaki for his sweet, deadpan and very Finnish film *Fallen Leaves* that garnered huge cheers from festival-goers.

Array of seniors

The 76th edition of the world's leading film get-together was a particularly glitzy affair, with world premieres for the new Indiana Jones and Martin Scorsese films playing out of competition.

Glazer received his award from Quentin Tarantino and 97-year-old cult director Roger Corman.

The festival often felt like a dream retirement home populated by ageing male icons from Hollywood. Harrison Ford, 80, got weepy when he received an honorary Palme d'Or ahead of the premiere of *Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny*.

Scorsese, also 80, said he was happy to stay out of the competition with his Native American epic *Killers of the Flower Moon*, joking to AFP: "It's time for others. I got to go. There are kids around."

European auteurs Ken Loach, 86, Marco Bellocchio, 83, and Victor Erice, 82, all brought new films to the festival.

ASKUS

K. Nitya Kalyani

Q I am 31 years old and working in a MNC. My company is providing me health insurance cover of ₹6 lakh per year. Since there is no free cover for my parents, I have opted for voluntary contribution and pay ₹39,000 per year for both of them from my pocket. My mother has diabetes. However, as this is corporate policy, pre-existing diseases are covered.

After a few years, if my employment is over or if I plan to quit the job for some reason, there won't be any active health insurance. If I purchase one then, there won't be coverage for pre-existing diseases from day one and we need to be on waiting period.

Adding to it, the premium amount will also be too high. I would like to hear your suggestion on the following: Should I stop the corporate health insurance and purchase one in the outside market now and continue with that (this is my third company, I may switch jobs again after a few years). Also please advise a preferred website to buy long-term health and term insurance policies, without visiting the insurance company's branch office.

Also, I am looking to purchase a term insurance for myself, please let me know your views on the riders one can select. Will it be fine if I opt for "With Return of Premium" in term insurance? Till what age can one take term insurance?

MANICKABABU S.

A When you have employer-provided health insurance, you should opt for it and use it as the anchor for your coverage. Since you plan to change jobs in the future, your idea of taking separate health insurance is wise, but if you cancel the corporate policy now, the new policy will cover you for pre-existing conditions only after the waiting period. This is clear in the case of your mother who will lose the diabetes cover she has now for four years or so.

Health insurance premium rates go by age slabs. Whether a new policy or old, at a particular age, a specified premium will apply. There could be loading, of course. In life insurance, on the other hand, it is age at inception of the policy that is a factor in the premium rate, so the higher emphasis on buying a policy earlier. There are multiple platforms for buying insurance online with efficient and interesting features to compare across policies and insurance companies and buy with a click of a button from the comfort of your home. You can check out the leading portals and see what they offer and don't forget to check what the insurance companies' own websites offer before finalising your buy. While you are at it, take an e-insurance account so you have your policy details on the cloud and at your fingertips, with renewals, changes, and all administration and even claims and renewals made that much easier. Any feature in an insurance policy comes with a cost attached. Your question is whether to take a term policy with a return of premium option and the reply to that is please check the extra premium for that option, see if the logic appeals to you and then make your choice.

The age up to which you should take term insurance depends on your financial obligations and when your dependents will be financially independent.

If your children are going to be well established financially when you are 70 years-old, then choose 70 with a few added years for buffer if you want. You can opt for an older age as well, just remember that you will be paying premium throughout the term you choose.

(The author is a business journalist specialising in insurance and corporate history)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Growth vs. value, the age-old investing debate

Lack of sufficient growth stocks poses a challenge for Indian investors who have to contend with value stocks that come with low price-to-earnings ratios and lower profit margins

CHOOSING STOCKS

Anand Srinivasan
Sashwath Swaminathan

There are two broad classifications for long-term equity investments: growth and value stocks.

Growth stocks are those that offer higher-than-market average growth in terms of earnings and revenue. They are generally characterised by high price-to-earnings ratios (reflecting the higher growth rate), low-cost structures due to network effects (hence lower capital requirements), low dividend yields and lower reliance on debt to fund capital requirements.

Therefore, these companies tend to have manageable debt levels and raise capital predominantly through issuing equity rather than borrowing (lower cost of capital due to low dividend yields).

Value companies

On the other hand, value companies tend to have higher working-capital requirements, greater reliance on borrowing to fund capital requirement, high dividend yields and low price-to-earnings ratios. They generally have lower profit margins than growth companies due to many factors. Value companies tend to operate in commodity markets (resembling perfect competition) rather than the technology industry leading to low product differentiation reducing pricing power (thus, lowering profit margins). Companies in India such as Tata Steel , Tata Chemicals and Vedanta fall in this category. These firms would prefer to fund capital requirement through borrowing rather than equity due to high capital requirements stemming from capital expenditure and working capital necessities.

Some exceptions

There are, however, exceptions to the rule with firms such as ITC, which have low debt and an average growth rate.

Over the past decade, the interest rate in the U.S.

had been next to zero leading to treasuries not being a viable option to yield returns. Value stocks, with low price-to-earnings ratio and high dividend yields, proved to be a way of capturing higher returns.

Growth stocks showed remarkable increases in revenue and profit but did not pose a great alternative to treasuries due to the low dividend yield. Moreover, growth stocks require one to engage in discounted cash-flow valuations (covered in an earlier piece), which prove to be scarcely reliable. A change in the discount rate by a few basis points leads to vastly differing company valuations. Additionally, it is difficult to accurately predict a company's growth percentages over a few years. Value stocks' earnings are not volatile and tend to be more predictable than growth stocks. Therefore, value stocks seemed like an attractive prospect to an investor looking to produce reliable returns.

Rising interest rates

However, interest rates in the recent past have been rising, leading to the real debt of value companies to increase. The effect of rising interest rates on value companies can be seen as twofold.

The first effect is the curbing of inflation erosion in their value of debt (lower commodity prices), and the second effect is lower profit from muted economic activity. On the other hand, growth companies are not as adversely affected due to low borrowings and high free cash flow, notwithstanding the rise in interest rates.

In the past year, the U.S. has seen a resurgence in growth stocks despite layoffs and a decline in the performance of value stocks. The case for Indian investors stays entirely different to those in the U.S.

Indian investors will find they do not have access to the growth companies mentioned above. Most high-growth companies in India (apart from a handful such as Infosys and Dr. Reddy's in the past) tend to prefer private equity funding rather than a public listing.

For example, companies such as Paperboat have made headway in the FMCG industry over the past decade and have chosen to remain privately owned. The supposed growth companies publicly listed in India, such as Nykaa, have done extremely poorly since listing. Others such as Zomato and Paytm are not worth mentioning, with negative profit and cash flows. Another problem Indian investors find is a lack of transparency in financial documents such as balance sheets (with some exceptions such as ITC and Tata firms), leading to poor decision-making.

The Indian retail investor, therefore, is left playing a value game without wanting to do so and must navigate a minefield of non-transparent balance sheets. However, the lack of access to growth stocks does not imply a lack of returns for the investor.

One must heed the advice of the erudite investor Howard Marks who stated that any asset is an excellent asset at the right price. The Indian investor stands to make exceptional returns through prudent and meticulous analysis of stocks and patiently waiting for appropriate prices.

(Anand Srinivasan is a consultant while Sashwath Swaminathan is a research assistant at Aionion Investment Services)

Spending vs. saving

COVERNOTE

There is always a battle between the desire to spend and the urge to save. Saving for the future is behaviourally difficult. However systematic investment plans help address this issue

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Spending seems natural whereas saving appears to be a forced habit. Here, we discuss the primary reason why saving for the future is behaviourally difficult. We also show how systematic investment plans (SIPs) help us address this issue.

Present happiness

Our primary goal is to improve our (financial) well-being. All decisions we take are geared towards increasing pleasure or reducing pain, as this is the optimal way to improve our well-being. It is in this context you must consider spending and savings habits.

Spending on products and services today gives us immediate happiness. Saving today can provide happiness in the future. But saving is likely to cause pain today because you must spend less today to save for the future. Also, happiness in the future depends on how skillful and lucky you are with your investments, as the outcome of your savings decision is uncertain.

Suppose you save continually to make a down payment for a house in the future. Your investment may not generate the required return to achieve the goal. Or your investment may generate the desired return, but housing inflation could push up property prices. Therefore, the amount you accumulate in investment account may not be enough to make the down payment. You understand the uncertainty of the outcome. Your brain, therefore, battles between present and future happiness, and the former mostly triumphs over the latter. Small wonder we are biased towards spending. Online shopping and electronic payments have only made it easier for us to spend.

There is an optimal way to spend and save. You must set aside savings first through SIPs (auto debits to bank account) and then spend the rest from your post-tax monthly income.

Conclusion

All of us desire to continually improve our well-being. So, it is tempting to increase spending. But, it is more important to increase savings every year. This is because you must reduce equity investments in your goal-based portfolio to reduce the risk of losses as your approach the end of the time horizon for a life goal.

Because bond investments earn lower returns, you must save more in bonds to match the higher expected return on equity investments.

This higher savings must come from the incremental increase in your monthly income every year. Therefore, increase your SIP amount every year and spend only the rest of the increase in your annual income.

(The author offers training programs for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	8.00	6.75	8.00	7.20
Capital Small Finance Bank	7.60	7.60	7.15	7.10
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.20	8.00	7.25
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.50	6.00	6.75	6.25
Fincare Small Finance Bank	8.41	7.50	8.00	8.00
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.15	7.25	7.35	6.00
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	9.10	6.85	7.25	9.10
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.25	6.50	7.20	7.20
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	8.25	7.75	8.25	7.50
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	7.10	6.75	7.00	7.00
Bandhan Bank	8.00	7.25	7.25	5.85
CSB Bank	7.25	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	7.50	6.25	6.50	6.50
HDFC Bank	7.10	6.60	7.00	7.00
ICICI Bank	7.10	6.70	7.00	7.00
IDFC First Bank	7.75	6.75	7.75	7.00
IndusInd Bank	7.75	7.50	7.75	7.25
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7.10	7.10	6.50	6.50
Karnataka Bank	7.30	7.00	6.50	6.50
Karur Vysya Bank	7.50	7.00	7.00	6.25
Kotak Mahindra Bank	7.20	7.10	6.50	6.20
Nainital Bank	7.05	6.70	6.25	5.75
SBM Bank India	7.80	7.05	7.65	7.65
South Indian Bank	7.40	6.60	6.50	6.00
City Union Bank	7.00	6.75	6.50	6.25
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.25	7.25	6.50	6.50
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	7.25	6.75	7.05	6.50
Bank of India	7.15	6.00	6.50	6.00
Bank of Maharashtra	7.00	6.35	6.00	5.75
Canara Bank	7.25	7.00	6.80	6.70
Central Bank of India	7.10	6.75	6.25	6.25
Indian Bank	7.25	6.10	6.25	6.25
Indian Overseas Bank	7.25	6.50	6.50	6.50
Punjab National Bank	7.25	6.80	7.00	6.50
Punjab & Sind Bank	7.35	6.40	6.25	6.25
State Bank of India	7.10	6.80	6.50	6.50
Union Bank of India	7.00	6.30	6.50	6.70
Foreign Banks				
Deutsche Bank	7.75	7.00	7.75	7.25
HSBC Bank	7.50	4.00	7.00	6.00

Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India*	8.50-10.15	8.50-10.05	8.50-10.05
Bank of Baroda	8.60-10.65	8.60-10.65	8.60-10.90
Union Bank of India	8.50-10.75	8.50-10.95	8.50-10.95
Punjab National Bank	8.65-9.60	8.60-9.50	8.60-9.50
Bank of India	8.45-10.75	8.45-10.75	8.45-10.75
Canara Bank	8.85-11.25	8.85-11.25	8.85-11.25
UCO Bank	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30	8.45-10.30
Bank of Maharashtra**	8.60-11.05	8.60-11.05	8.60-11.05
Punjab and Sind Bank	8.85-9.95	8.85-9.95	8.85-9.95
Indian Overseas Bank	8.85 onwards	8.85 onwards	8.85 onwards
Central Bank of India	8.45-9.80	8.45-9.80	8.45-9.80
Private Sector Banks			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	8.85 onwards	8.85 onwards	8.85 onwards
ICICI Bank	9.00-9.80	9.00-9.95	9.00-10.05
Axis Bank	8.75-12.70	8.75-12.70	8.75-9.15
HSBC Bank	8.60 onwards	8.60 onwards	8.60 onwards
South Indian Bank	9.85-12.60	9.85-12.60	9.85-12.60
Karur Vysya Bank	9.23-12.13	9.23-12.13	9.23-12.13
Karnataka Bank	8.75-10.43	8.75-10.43	8.75-10.43
Federal Bank	10.15-10.20	10.20-10.25	10.25-10.30
Dhanlaxmi Bank	9.35-10.50	9.35-10.50	9.35-10.50
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	9.35-9.85	9.35-9.85	9.35-9.85
Bandhan Bank	9.15-15.00	9.15-13.32	9.15-13.32
City Union Bank	12.25 - 14.00	12.75 - 14.50	13.25 - 14.75
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	8.60-10.35	8.60-10.55	8.60-10.75
HDFC Ltd.	8.50-10.35	8.50-10.60	8.50-10.70
Tata Capital	9.15 onwards	9.15 onwards	9.15 onwards
PNB Housing Finance	8.75-14.50	8.75-13.00	8.75-11.35
GIC Housing Finance	8.80 onwards	8.80 onwards	8.80 onwards
Repco Home Finance	9.80 onwards	9.80 onwards	9.80 onwards
Aditya Birla Capital	8.80-14.75	8.80-14.75	8.80-14.75
ICICI Home Finance	9.20 onwards	9.20 onwards	9.20 onwards
Godrej Housing Finance	8.64 onwards	8.64 onwards	8.64 onwards

***10 bps concession on applicable interest rates for Shaurya and Shaurya Flexi products. 5 bps concession on applicable interest rates for builder tie-up projects**
****Concession of 0.05% in applicable interest rate to women borrowers and defence personnel**
Rates as on May 24 **Source:Paisabazaar.com**

MUSCLEMAN

Maxwell has the highest strike rate in IPL 2023

Glenn Maxwell has scored 400 runs at an impressive strike rate of 183.49, which is the highest amongst batters with a minimum of 200 runs in IPL 2023. The only other player with a 180-plus strike rate is Suryakumar Yadav (181.14). Scoring runs at a quick pace is an essential aspect of T20s.

BIG MATCH PLAYER

Gill will emulate Virat, Rohit and Dhoni, says Suresh Raina

Former India cricketer Suresh Raina heaped high praise on Shubamn Gill for his knock in Qualifier 2. "I loved his body language, his self-confidence, self-belief and the calmness we saw.... whenever we have big games, he will perform as Virat, Rohit, and M.S. Dhoni have," said Raina.

SUPER HIT

Dhoni's No. 7 CSK jersey in great demand this season

M.S. Dhoni's presence in the CSK team has filled venues all over the country this season and the Narendra Modi Stadium was expecting a grand finale on Sunday before rain pushed it to Monday. Sharif, a T-shirt seller, said: "Last year it was just [Hardik] Pandya jerseys that were sold but this time Dhoni's No. 7 shirt is equally in demand."

VITAL COGS

Kohli and Rohit are key to India's chances in WTC Final: Hussey

Michael Hussey feels it is "hard to see past Virat Kohli" if India is to win the World Test Championship final against Australia at the Oval in London from June 7. Besides Kohli, skipper Rohit Sharma will be key to India's chances in the WTC final, the former Australia batter said. Hussey did not pick a favourite for the one-off game.

Final runs into rough weather, to be played today

Unrelenting rain forces the match to the reserve day, leaving the fans disappointed; the same playing conditions as it was for the original day will apply

IPL-16

N. Sudarshan
AHMEDABAD

Torrential rains led to the postponement of the Indian Premier League final between Gujarat Titans and Chennai Super Kings to Monday.

Dark clouds started hovering around the Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday an hour-and-a-half before the scheduled start time of 7.30 p.m.

Scurrying for cover

And within 30 minutes, fans who had nearly filled three-fourths of the humongous stadium, went scurrying for cover, as a heavy downpour, accompanied by strong winds, lashed the premises.

The rain eased up at around 9 p.m., and much to the supporters' joy, the covers went off and players trooped on to the turf for their warm-ups.

Miniature pools

But their hopes of some cricketing action were quickly dashed as heavens opened up again, and the unrelenting rain lasted well into the night, turning vast swathes of the ground into miniature pools.

For Monday, the same playing conditions as they were for the original day of the final will apply.

In case there is a weather disruption again – a few forecasts are predicting a 30% chance of precipitation - the final can start as late as 9.35 p.m. without any reduction in the number of overs.

A five-overs-a-side contest can begin at 12.06 a.m. (Tuesday).

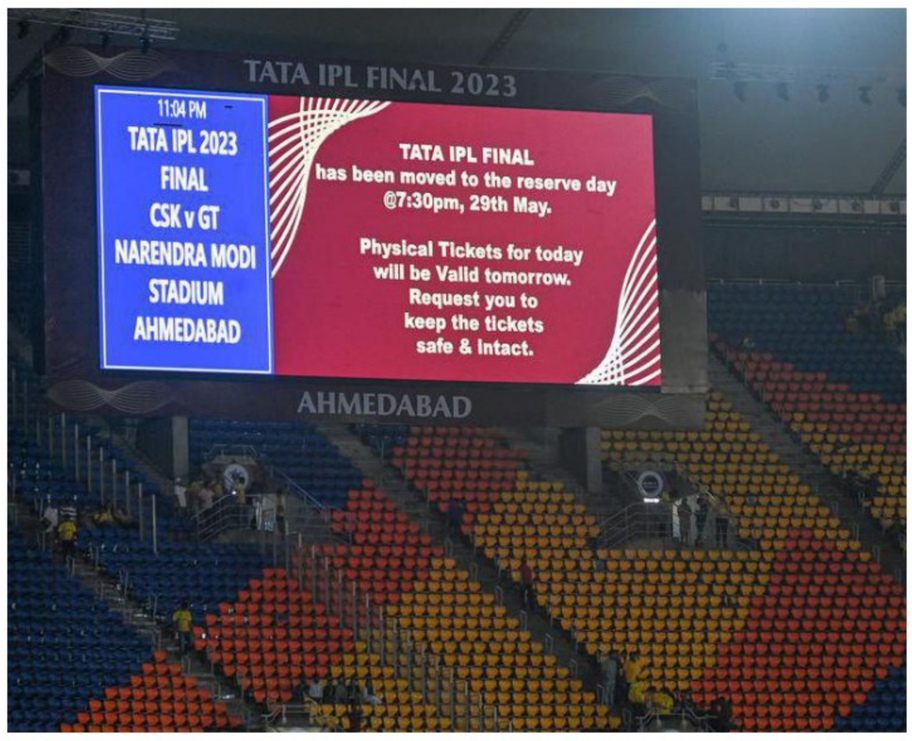
According to IPL's Match Playing Conditions Briefing Note – circulated for the 2022 edition but not available in the public forum for 2023 – in the eventuality of there being no chance of holding even a five-overs-a-side match on the reserve day, the destination of the trophy can be decided via a Super Over, conditions permitting.

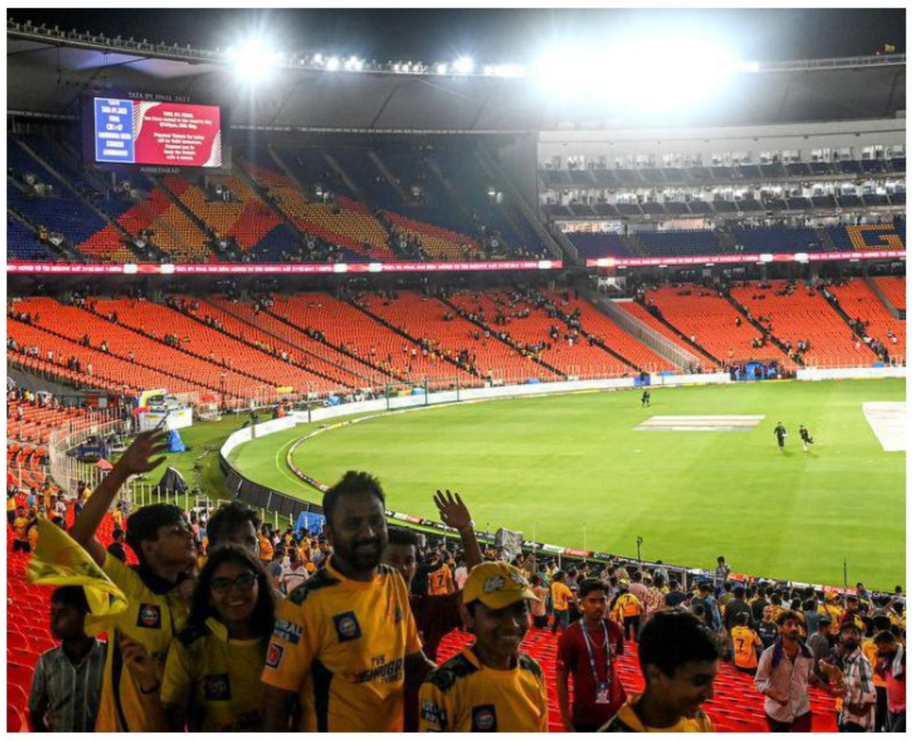
If there is no play, GT will be declared champion by virtue of having finished ahead of CSK in the league table (20 points to 17).

Fair and square

Those thousands of fans, who waited well into the night to catch a glimpse of their favourite cricketers dazzle under the night sky, will definitely want the title to be decided fair and square, and on the pitch.

"Fans who had their tickets for the Tata IPL Final on May 28 will now be able to enter the stadium with their existing physical tickets on May 29," a statement from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said.





Dampener: Rain had the final say as the summit clash was called off even as the fervent hopes of the fans at least for a truncated game were dashed. K.R. DEEPAK

Rayudu, winner of five IPL titles, decides to quit; Monday's final his last

Pulling his weight: Known for his big-hitting abilities, Rayudu, who was part of five successful campaigns, played a pivotal role in the middle-order for Mumbai Indians and Super Kings. AFP

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings batter Ambati Rayudu on Sunday announced his retirement from the Indian Premier League hours before the start of the final which was eventually forced into a reserve day owing to rain.

In a 14-year career, the 37-year-old played 203 matches since making his debut for Mumbai Indians in 2010. Rayudu was bought by Super Kings in 2018 and again in the mega auction held before the 2022 season.

3 with MI, 2 with CSK

The former India cricketer is one of the most decorated players in the league's history, having been part of five title-winning campaigns; three titles with Mumbai (2013, 2015, 2017) before adding two more with the Chennai side (2018, 2021).

Known for his big-hitting abilities, Rayudu has played a vital role in the middle-order for Mumbai Indians and Chennai Super Kings.

His most successful outing came in 2018 when he smashed 602 runs for CSK.

That season, he often opened the innings and forged a terrific partnership with Shane Watson as the two powered Super Kings to its third IPL title.

His knocks against Sunrisers Hyderabad in the two league games that year were among the best of his career in the competition.

It was against SRH that Rayudu recorded his highest score, smashing an unbeaten 100 (62b, 7x4, 7x6) in Pune. Besides his abilities with the bat, Rayudu has donned the big gloves a few times.

Vital cameos

This year, while Rayudu has not been in the best of form, he has played a few vital cameos and has primarily been used as an Impact Player. After being snubbed for the 2019 World Cup, Rayudu called it quits from all forms of cricket before deciding to play in the IPL and domestic competitions.

Last year, midway through the season, he tweeted that 2022 would be his final season before he was coaxed out of the decision by the Super Kings management.

On Sunday, however, he promised there would not be another 'U-turn', thus bringing an end to a career that has often gone under the radar but is filled with winners' medals that will be the envy of many.

Rayudu's IPL numbers

Seasons: 14 | Playoffs: 11
Finals: 8 | Trophies: 5

Matches: 203 | Innings: 186
Runs: 4239 | HS:100*
Sr: 127.29 | 50s: 22 | 100s: 1

For MI (2010-2017)

Matches: 114
Inns: 107 | Runs: 2416
HS: 81* | 50s: 14 | 100s: 0

For CSK (2018-2023)

Matches: 89
Inns: 79 | Runs: 1913
HS: 100* | 50s: 8 | 100s: 1

B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

COMPILED BY MAITHREYI. S

INBRIEF

New mum Svitolina wins first title since comeback

Former World No. 3 Elina Svitolina completed a winning return from maternity leave on Saturday by lifting her 17th WTA trophy in Strasbourg. The Ukrainian, who returned to action last month after more than a year away, swept past Russian Anna Blinkova, 6-2, 6-3.

Paris St. Germain claims a record 11th Ligue 1 crown

Paris Saint-Germain clinched a French record 11th league title on Saturday as Lionel Messi scored in a 1-1 draw away at Strasbourg. The result gave PSG an unassailable four-point lead over second-placed Lens with one match of the season remaining. PSG moved ahead of the previous record of 10 titles set by Saint-Etienne in 1981 and which it equalled a year ago. It is PSG's ninth title in the last 11 seasons.

Mandar Rao Dessai to leave Mumbai City FC

Mandar Rao Dessai will leave Mumbai City FC after his contract ends on May 31, the club stated in a release. The 31-year-old left-back will bid farewell to the Islanders after three successful seasons. Mandar Rao arrived at Mumbai City FC in October 2020 from FC Goa.

Jarry downs Dimitrov in straight sets to win in Geneva

Outsider Nicolas Jarry beat Grigor Dimitrov 7-6(1), 6-1 in straight sets in the Geneva Open final on Saturday, sending him into next week's French Open bolstered by a clay court title.

Crouser smashes world shot put record with 23.56m throw

Olympic and world shot put champion Ryan Crouser smashed his own world record on Saturday, throwing 23.56m at the Los Angeles Grand Prix track and field meeting. Crouser obliterated his previous mark of 23.37m set in Eugene in 2021.

Haaland is player of the season and FWA's footballer

Erling Haaland, the Norwegian, was named Premier League 'Player of the Season' after a combined voting involving the general public, the captains of all 20 Premier League clubs and experts. Haaland had an incredible debut season in which he scored 36 goals in 35 games. City players have now won the award four years in a row. Haaland was also named the Football Writers' Association 'Footballer of the Year'.

LIVE TELECAST

Roland Garros: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2.30 p.m. onwards

Prannoy ends a long wait for a title

The Indian claims his maiden BWF World Tour title with a three-game win over Weng; Yamaguchi takes the honours in the women's section

MALAYSIA MASTERS

Press Trust of India
KUALA LUMPUR

H.S. Prannoy ended a six-year-long title drought with a three-game win over China's Weng Hong Yang in a pulsating men's singles finals at the Malaysia Masters Super 500 badminton tournament here on Sunday.

The 30-year-old Indian showed great composure and resolve during a 94-minute battle to notch up a 21-19, 13-21, 21-18 victory against China's World No. 34 Weng, a 2022 Asian Championships bronze medallist.

The win not only helped Prannoy claim his maiden BWF World Tour title but also the first singles crown of the year for India. He was also richer by $ 31,500 for being the champion.

This week, Prannoy gave ample display of his physical and mental fortitude as he outfoxed World No. 5 Chou Tien Chen, All England champion Li Shi Feng and Japan's Kenta Nishimoto in three games.

Happy tidings: Joy is writ large on Prannoy's face as he poses with his reward for claiming the Malaysian Masters crown on Sunday. AP

On Sunday, all his hard work paid off as the World No. 9 Prannoy dished out a superlative performance against the 23-year-old from China in a battle of attrition.

His plan was simple: keep up a consistent attack, retrieve everything and wait for the opponents mistake. The Indian used his angled returns to create chances and his economical court mobility helped him to keep pace with his quick left-handed opponent through the exciting final clash.

Yamaguchi reigns

In the women's singles final, top seed Akane Yamaguchi of Japan got the better of Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska Tunjung 21-17, 21-7.

Prannoy overwhelmed with emotions after exploits

V.V. Subrahmanyam
HYDERABAD

H.S. Prannoy, who won his maiden BWF World Tour title when he clinched the Malaysian Open on Sunday, said that he would look forward to upcoming tournaments with more confidence.

The 30-year-old shuttler, who has beaten top players on innumerable occasions but never won a title, said that there were just too many emotions as the last six years were a roller-coaster ride for him.

"It is a great feeling. I think someday it was meant to happen (to win a big title)," Prannoy told *The Hindu*.

"Not just in terms of qualification for next year's Paris Olympics but also personally, I really needed this one," he said.

Reflecting on the game, Prannoy said that he kept trust in his long rallies and dug deep.

"I believed in my daily routine to be in the right frame – mentally and physically. Always worked really hard," he said.

"I feel it is a process that has been on for two years now to be at my best at the highest level. That intense desire to get better and better was a huge factor," he said.

Winning performance: Prannoy in action in the final against Weng Hong Yang. AP

"I don't look at this title coming a bit too late. For things don't always happen the way you want them to be. That's life and in sport too," he said.

"To be honest, if you had asked me in 2017, I don't think I would have told you that in 2023 I would be winning a Super 500.

"I want to thank all the coaches and support staff. I think we have worked really, really hard and the result is showing," said Prannoy.

"It's too many emotions as such and then you are excited to come out there and play in front of such a big crowd," he said.

"The draw was really tough for me and I had to dig really deep. All four matches went to the wire and that shows how patient I was. My fitness was also pretty much decent," Prannoy said.

"The conditions were really slow the entire tournament and all matches were going long. You just had to hang in there and I did that," he added.

Indian junior women leave for Asia Cup

ANI
BENGALURU

The Indian Junior women's hockey team left for the prestigious Junior Asia Cup from the Kempegowda International Airport on Sunday morning.

The Junior Asia Cup, a qualifying event for the FIH Junior World Cup, is scheduled to begin on June 2 in Kakamigahara, Japan.

The Indian team will be up against Korea, Malaysia, Chinese Taipei and Uzbekistan in Pool-A during the group stage. Pool-B consists of hosts Japan, China, Kazakhstan, Hong Kong China and Indonesia.

The semifinals will be held on June 10 while the final will be on June 11.

Northern Lights obliges in feature

BENGALURU: P. Shroff-trained Northern Lights (P.S. Chouhan up) won the Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Cup, the feature event of the races held here on Sunday (May 28). The winner is owned by Mr. & Mrs. Vijay B. Shirke, Mr. Jay V. Shirke & Darashaw Bloodstock Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Mr. Dara K. Mehta & Mr. Bhupinder Singh S.S.

1. LADY GIBRALTAR PLATE: VENUS (Likith Appu) 1, Benignity (P. Surya) 2, Mega Success (Jagadeesh) 3 and Akasi (Chethan K) 4. 3, 1/2 and Nk. 1m, 15.73s. ₹25 (w), 13, 38 and 22 (p), SHP: 124, THP: 69, FP: 514, Q: 190, Trinella: 3,866, Exacta: 20,182. Favourite: Venus. Owner: Mrs. Kokila E & Manjri Horse Breed Farm Pvt Ltd. Trainer: Neil Darashah.

2. RAMKIRPAL PLATE (DIV. III): THE GOLDEN DREAM (Khurshad) 1, Belvedere (Akshay K) 2, Golden Starlet (Rajesh K) 3 and Firefinch (Arvind K) 4. Nk, 2 and 4-1/4. 1m, 13.96s. ₹46 (w), 15, 12 and 14 (p), SHP: 31, THP: 44, FP: 130, Q: 56, Trinella: 402, ExactaL: 2,941. Favourite: Belvedere. Owner: Mr. C.V. Prasad Rao. Trainer: Sharat Kumar.

3. BEAUTIFUL BABE PLATE (DIV. II): GOLDEN PEAKS (Akshay K) 1, Royal Mysore (S. Saqlain) 2, Sassy (Trevor) 3 and Indian Sniper (Abhay) 4. 1-3/4, Nose and 1-1/2. 1m, 25.66s. ₹41 (w), 12, 10 and 15 (p), SHP: 33, THP: 36, FP: 66, Q: 24, Trinella: 181, Exacta: 2,536. Favourite: Royal Mysore. Owners: Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP, Mr. Girish Mehta & Mr. K. Mahaveer Chand. Trainer: Parvati Byramji.

4. RAMKIRPAL PLATE (DIV. II): OPUS ONE (S. Saqlain) 1, The Omega Man (Rayan) 2, Air Display (Vivek) 3 and Foi (Vishal Bunde) 4. 1/2, 2-1/2 and 2-1/4. 1m, 14.08s. ₹26 (w), 12, 21 and 32 (p), SHP: 61, THP: 69, FP: 279, Q: 108, Trinella: 2,842, Exacta: 25,868. Favourite: Opus One. Owner: M/s. Rapar Galloping Stars LLP rep. by Mr Rajendran. Trainer: Irfan Ghatala.

5. V.T. VELU MEMORIAL TROPHY: CHRISTOFLE (Trevor) 1, Place Vendome (Akshay K) 2, Splendido (Vinod Shinde) 3 and Ramiel (Hindu S) 4. 1-3/4, 1 and 5-1/4. 1m, 37.83s. ₹13 (w), 10, 15 and 36 (p), SHP: 27, THP: 70, FP: 46, Q: 35, Trinella: 314, Exacta: 1,561. Favourite: Christofle. Owners: Mr. & Mrs. Vijay B. Shirke, Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr. K.N. Dhunjibhoy & Mr. Z.K. Dhunjibhoy & Mr. Vispi R. Patel. Trainer: P. Shroff.

6. JAYACHAMARAJA WADIYAR CUP: NORTHERN LIGHTS (P.S. Chouhan) 1, Cool Rider (Zervan) 2, A Star Is Born (Yash) 3 and Imperial Blue (S. Saqlain) 4. 1-3/4, 1-1/4 and 1-3/4. 1m, 23.09s (record time). ₹20 (w), 11, 25 and 18 (p), SHP: 81, THP: 56, FP: 147, Q: 144, Trinella: 785, Exacta: 3,517. Favourite: Northern Lights. Owners: Mr. & Mrs. Vijay B. Shirke, Mr. Jay V. Shirke & Darashaw Bloodstock Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr. Dara K. Mehta & Mr. Bhupinder Singh S.S. Trainer: P. Shroff.

7. BEAUTIFUL BABE PLATE (DIV. I): NEZIAH (P.S. Chouhan) 1, River Of Gold (Trevor) 2, Double Scotch (Akshay K) 3 and Pneuma (Hindu S) 4. Not run: Knight Defensor. 3-1/2, 5 and 2. 1m, 25.39s. ₹17 (w), 10, 11 and 17 (p), SHP: 28, THP: 35, FP: 28, Q: 17, Trinella: 107, Exacta: 526. Favourite: Neziah. Owners: Mr. Marthand Singh Mahindra, Mr. Joydeep Datta Gupta, M/s. Deciding Factor LLP & Mr. Sp. Thirunavukkarasu & Mrs. Rina Mahindra. Trainer: James Mckeown.

8. RAMKIRPAL PLATE (DIV. I): ALCIDES SYNERGY (A. Imran) 1, Seoul (Bhawani S) 2, Schafenberg (Rayan) 3 and Remontoir (A. Ramu) 4. 1-1/4, 1 and 1-1/2. 1m, 13.40s. ₹15 (w), 11, 17 and 36, SHP: 48, THP: 87, FP: 46, Q: 44, Trinella: 817, Exacta: 2,407. Favourite: Alcides Synergy. Owners: Mr. Balasubramanya R, Mr. T. Chetan Prasad & Mr. Lohith Anand. Trainer: Neil Darashah.

Jackpot: ₹235 (512 tkts.).

Runner-up: 59 (866 tkts.).

Treble (i); 181 (50 tkts.); (ii): 63 (557 tkts.).

Prithviraj, Shreyasi miss bronze by a whisker

SHOTGUN WORLD CUP

Sports Bureau

Prithviraj Tondaiman and Shreyasi Singh shot a combined total of 136 and missed the bronze by one point in the trap mixed team event in the shotgun World Cup, which concluded at Almaty, Kazakhstan, on Sunday.

With a silver and a bronze won in women's skeet through Ganemat Sekhon and Darshna Rathore respectively, India finished fifth.

Kazakhstan won the mixed trap gold through Mariya Dmitriyenko and Victor Khassyanov, which helped the team top the table with two gold and a silver.

Italy was second with two gold and two bronze medals.

Spain and Greece were the other teams that won at least one gold medal. Australia was joint fifth with India with a silver and a bronze.

The results: Trap: Mixed team: 1. Kazakhstan (Mariya Dmitriyenko, Victor Khassyanov) 142; 2. Turkey (Rumeysa Kaya, Tolga Tuncer) 140; 3. Iran (Nia Marziyeh, Nia Mohammad Hossein) 137; 5. Inida (Shreyasi Singh, Prithviraj Tondaiman) 136; 8. India-1 (Preeti Rajak, Zoravar Singh Sandhu) 134.

Jaiswal added as stand-bye to India's squad

Golden opportunity: Jaiswal, who has been in prolific form, will be keen to grab the chance. FILE PHOTO: M. PERIASAMY

WTC FINAL

ANI
LONDON

Yashasvi Jaiswal has been added to the Indian squad for the upcoming World Test Championship (WTC) final as a stand-by player as Ruturaj Gaikwad would be getting married on June 3, it was reported on Sunday.

In his absence, Jaiswal who holds a UK visa will be part of the Indian squad of the WTC final which will be held between June 7 to June 12 at Oval in England.

The Indian players left for the WTC Final in batches. India was a WTC finalist in the year 2021, but lost to New Zealand.

The confirmed squads:

Australia: Pat Cummins (Capt.), Scott Boland, Alex Carey, Cameron Green, Marcus Harris, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Nathan Lyon, Josh Inglis, Todd Murphy, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, and David Warner; **Reserves:** Mitchell Marsh and Matt Renshaw.

India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), R. Ashwin, K.S. Bharat, Shubman Gill, Ravindra Jadeja, Virat Kohli, Ishan Kishan, Axar Patel, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane, Mohammad Shami, Mohammad Siraj, Shardul Thakur, Jaydev Unadkat, and Umesh Yadav; **Reserves:** Yashasvi Jaiswal, Mukesh Kumar, and Suryakumar Yadav.

India splits points with Pakistan, stays second in Pool-A

HOCKEY

Press Trust of India
SALALAH (OMAN)

India played out a thrilling 1-1 draw against Pakistan in their third Pool-A game to continue its unbeaten run in the men's Junior Asia Cup hockey tournament here.

Sharda Nand Tiwari (24th minute) gave India the lead on Saturday night, but it was nullified by Basharat Ali in the 44th minute.

The result means India, with seven points from three matches, stays second in Pool-A behind Pakistan (same points) but is ahead on goal difference.

Japan, which beat Chinese Taipei 10-1 earlier on Saturday, is third with six points from three outings.

India had earlier thrashed Chinese Taipei 18-0 before beating Japan 3-1 in its second match.

Both teams came close to scoring quite a few times, but neither side was able to find the back of the net.

Mehuli Ghosh eyes a spot among the world's elite

SHOOTING

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

Mehuli Ghosh is on a mission. The Youth Olympics silver medallist is not only poised to fight her way back into the national team for the big events, but is getting ready to make her presence felt on the world stage.

By shooting a staggering 637.0 in women's air rifle in the ongoing Khelo India University Games (KIUG), the 22-year-old Mehuli has served a warning to the elite shooters across the globe.

What the score signifies is that Mehuli is able to shoot an average of 10.6 over 60 shots. That is pretty close to perfection which is 10.9.

"It feels very good and the score gives me great confidence. I am proud of myself. I haven't shot this score even in training," said Mehuli.

With perfection becoming a daily pursuit, Mehuli has been training diligently, away from the international glare.

"I have been training well for the finals. It is a new format. In fact, it is an old format that has come back now. The single shots format in the finals tend to break one's rhythm. It is difficult to retain the flow," said Mehuli.

On a mission: Mehuli's 637.0 in air rifle in the ongoing KIUG is a warning to shooters across the globe. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

After winning the air rifle mixed team gold with Shahu Tushar Mane in the World Cup in Changwon, Korea, in July last year, Mehuli has been out of the international orbit this season as she was not at her best (626.6) in the national championship.

"I have climbed to the third spot in the averages now. I look forward to competing in the Kumar Surendra Singh memorial in Thiruvananthapuram next month, and do well in the selection trials to make the team for the Asian Games and World Championships," said Mehuli,

The idea is to be ready to win the Olympic quota in the World Championship or the Continental championship. "I hope to make the team and do my best," said Mehuli.

Rivals hope to get a sneak peek into Red Bull's secrets post Perez's crash

Photographs show the most aerodynamically sensitive area of the car referred as The floor, which otherwise is not normally seen and is the hardest part for teams to get a glimpse of

FORMULA ONE

Reuters
MONACO

Formula One rivals hope to discover some of dominant Red Bull's most closely guarded secrets from photographs of the underside of Sergio Perez's car after it was craned off the Monaco Grand Prix circuit.

The floor is the most aerodynamically sensitive area of the car, with ground-effect sculpting responsible for much of the performance.

It is also the hardest part for rival teams to get a glimpse of, unless a car overturns or is lifted into the air –as Perez's was after the Mexican crashed into barriers in Saturday qualifying.

Monaco marshals typically use cranes to clear stranded cars from the metal-fenced track because of the close confines and lack of runoff.

"With these regulations, the most important bit is the bit you don't normally get to see," Mercedes trackside engineering director Andrew Shovlin told reporters on Sunday.

"So the teams will be all over those kinds of photographs. Monaco is a good opportunity to get that kind of shot."

Mercedes also had Lewis Hamilton's newly-upgraded car hoisted high into the air, giving a good view of the underside, but Shovlin said Red Bull –winners of every race this season with four one-two finishes –would be more annoyed. Aston Martin performance director Tom McCullough said the exposure of the wooden plank, which every Formula One car has running down the middle of the floor, would also provide useful information.

Mercedes team boss Toto Wolff joked on Saturday that the crane operator must have been trained by the "Cirque du Soleil", so high was Hamilton's car lifted and at such an angle.

Chaotic scenes: Red Bull Racing's Sergio Perez is removed from the track after he crashed during the qualifying session of the Formula One Monaco Grand Prix. AFP

Technology has opened multiple avenues of learning the sport: Thejkumar

CHESS

Leon Sajan
BENGALURU

Karnataka got its first-ever chess Grandmaster just six years ago, when M.S. Thejkumar from Mysuru became India's 50th GM at the age of 36.

It wasn't easy though for the Railways employee as he was from a family that was not so financially stable.

Not affordable

"Back then, players could not afford personal coaches to train them for matches. We would usually learn and prepare on our own," Thejkumar, who is competing in the Akshayakalpa Karnataka State chess championship here, told *The Hindu*.

The level of competition today demands that players have coaches to guide them.

Thejkumar, who played his first international tournament in France in 2012, said that the expenditure involved with chess depends on where the player wants to play.

"For playing a tournament in India, it could cost around ₹30,000 whereas for playing abroad it may even go up to more than ₹1,00,000," he said.

Government support

On the flip side, State governments support and encourage players when they are conferred with the GM status.

The stigma of pursuing a unpredictable career in sports might deter a few. "Chess is not pursued as a career by many as playing at the highest level is very tough," Thejkumar said.

Players who begin at the ground level have to win multiple tournaments to bag a sponsorship.

Those who have made it to the top earn mainly through prize money on offer in international and national level tournaments.

Thejkumar. FILE PHOTO

> Just like my employer Railways, there are also various government corporations that employ sportspersons to represent them in the national chess tournaments
> THEJKUMAR

"Just like my employer Railways, there are also various government corporations that employ sportspersons to represent them in the national chess tournaments," Thejkumar said.

Technology is a crucial factor that has opened multiple avenues of learning chess and also increased the level of competition.

"It has made players more resourceful and aware about various game situations which has in turn made them difficult to outplay," said Thejkumar.

Online coaching

Asked if online coaching has made personal coaches redundant, Thejkumar said, "Videos have helped players to learn from the best from the comfort of their home. One need not pay for training to learn the game".

Wolff dismisses speculation around Hamilton

Reuters
MONACO

Mercedes boss Toto Wolff said he never had any concern about media speculation linking Lewis Hamilton to Ferrari because of a long-standing "pact" with the seven-time Formula One world champion.

The Briton will be out of contract at the end of the season but has denied talks with Ferrari and said he is close to signing a new deal with Mercedes, the team he joined from McLaren in 2013.

Ferrari have also said it did not make any approach. "We are in a super-happy position with Lewis. There weren't any stumbling blocks in the contract negotiations," Wolff told reporters at the Monaco Grand Prix.

"We have a pact, and we've had that since many, many years, that we wouldn't talk to any other driver before we have taken a decision to stay together or not. So I was never a millimetre in doubt that there was any discussion (with Ferrari).

"Someone just felt to place that, maybe to in a way play a role in what seemed to be a negotiation but it is not negotiating."

Wolff said contract talks with Hamilton, who has a team sorting out the fine details for him, consisted of sitting down together and discussing what needed to be changed from the previous wording.

Not much change

"The contract was ready in 2013. We've never really changed a lot of words in there. The dates, the marketing days," said the Austrian.

The 38-year-old Hamilton, who has not won a race since 2021, is Formula One's most successful driver of all time with 103 wins and a profile that transcends the sport.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Infinity Belagavi City FA routs Annsh SC

Infinity Belagavi City FA whipped Annsh SC 8-1 in the 'C' division men's football league here on Sunday.

In another match Yelahanka Camp Boys FC drew with SAMBA FC 1-1.

DPS (East) to take on Six CA for the honours

Abhinav Kulkarni (81) helped DPS (East) defeat Gopalan in the semifinals of the Tiger Cup under-14 cricket tournament at Global Academy of Technology grounds.

The scores (semifinals): DPS (East) 211/7 in 30 overs (Abhinav Kulkarni 81, Shahan Shadab 40, Rithwik Kumar 3/31) bt Gopalan 117/8 in 30 overs (Bhavik Bansal 38, Suhaan 35, Aryaman 3/12, Arush Jain 3/15). Six CA 172/5 in 30 overs (Rafa Poonacha 69, Paarth Madan 39, Krish Dhami 26) bt DPS (South) 142 in 28.3 overs (J. Kishan 56, Vedant Venkat 3/24, Chetan 3/31).

Laksh and Jade take under-17 singles crowns; Prateek and Suhina reign in under-15 category

Laksh Chengappa and Jade Anil won the under-17 boys' and girls' singles titles respectively in the Yonex Sunrise Karnataka State sub-junior badminton ranking tournament at KBA here.

The results (finals):
Under-15: Boys: Singles: Prateek Koundilya bt Hardik Divyansh 21-13, 21-10.
Doubles: Amith Raj & Hardik Divyansh bt S. Pavan & S. Punith 18-21, 21-15, 21-12.
Girls: Singles: Suhina Roy bt Shaina Mani 21-15, 21-13.
Doubles: Vriddhi Ponnamma & Aditi Deepak bt Shaina Mani & Aikya Shetty 21-9, 21-13.
Mixed doubles: Prateek Koundilya & Suhina Roy bt Pradyumna & Lakshya Rajesh 19-21, 21-14, 21-16.
U-17: Boys: Singles: Laksh Chengappa bt Dhyan Santosh 21-12, 21-16.
Doubles: A.R. Sumith & Chris Anjen bt Avi Basak & Siddharth Gunturi 21-11, 18-21, 21-18.
Girls: Singles: Jade Anil bt Gowri Vineeth 16-21, 21-10 21-19.
Doubles: Vriddhi Ponnamma & Aditi Deepak bt Aarnavi Shetty & Anvitha Vijay 21-8, 21-14.
Mixed doubles: Siddharth Gunturi & A.S. Mounitha bt Dhyan Santosh & Disha Santosh 26-28, 21-17, 21-12.

Ponting reveals his combined Test XI from Australia and India squads

CRICKET

ANI
NEW DELHI

Ricky Ponting has selected his Combined Test XI from the Australia and India squads ahead of the ICC World Test Championship final which will be held on June 7 in Oval in England.

The former Australia skipper identified Rohit as the player to captain the combined Test XI due to his extensive experience as a leader, although Pat Cummins is still seen as integral to Ponting's line-up. He said in an *ICC Review Podcast*.

"I'll start with Usman Khawaja. His last couple of years, whether it has been in Australia or away, have been outstanding at the top of the order.

"I'm going left hand-right hand, so I'll go for Rohit Sharma as the other opener. He's not just entirely form-based either. I wanted him to be captain of the side.

"Just from the experience point of view with Rohit, he's obviously been captain a lot longer than Pat has, so I thought he deserved to be the captain of this team."

Experience counts: Ponting opted for Rohit over Cummins to lead his side. FILE PHOTO

Ponting was quick to pick Marnus Labuschagne as the No.3 batter.

Ponting was also firm in stacking the middle-order with what he sees as two of the greatest batters from the past decade.

While multiple batters from each team could stake a claim for the last middle-order spot, Ponting went with all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja.

Ponting included Alex Carey as the wicketkeeper in the combined Test XI but was less certain where the Australian might bat in the line-up.

Three quicks

Ponting had little qualms choosing his three front-line quicks as Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Mohammae Shami.

Ponting turned to a second tweaker in Australia's off-spinner Nathan Lyon. Lyon will be the other spinner in the side.

Ricky Ponting's combined India-Australia Test XI:
Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Virat Kohli, Steve Smith, R. Jadeja, Alex Carey (wk), Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc, Nathan Lyon and Mohammed Shami.

Luton completes fairytale rise to Premier League riches

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Luton completed a fairytale journey to the Premier League after beating Coventry on penalties in the Championship playoff final at Wembley on Saturday.

The Hatters secured a fourth promotion in 10 seasons via 6-5 in the shootout after the sides were tied at 1-1 after 120 minutes.

Financial experts estimate promotion to world football's most watched league to be worth around £170 million ($210 million) for a club that has been through turmoil since it last played in the top flight 31 years ago.

Luton is the first club to go from the fifth tier to the top flight in the Premier League era.

Midfielder Pelly Ruddock Mpanzu has been on that whole journey and becomes the first player to go from the National League to Premier League with the same club.

Some of Luton's cash windfall will go to upgrading the club's stadium, Kenilworth Road, which with a capacity just over 10,000 and set among rows of terraced houses, will be hosting the likes of Manchester United and Liverpool next season. Luton had to recover from an early shock when captain Tom Lockyer collapsed on the field.

On a high: Luton Town players celebrate their side's promotion to the Premier League. AP

The Welsh centre-back was stretchered off and taken to hospital, where the club confirmed he was responsive and able to talk to his family.

Lockyer had played his part when Luton had the ball in the net after just five minutes when Gabriel Osho was flagged offside as he forced the ball in from close range.

But a bright start from Edwards' men was rewarded on 23 minutes when Elijah Adebayo's good work down the left teed up Jordan Clark to smash home at the near post.

Adebayo had a second Luton goal ruled out before half-time for handball.

Coventry looked like a side that had stage fright in front of 85,000 people in the first-half.

But Mark Robins' side has grown used to thriving in adversity. Coventry was much improved after the break and got its reward 24 minutes from time when Viktor Gyokeres teed up Gustavo Hamer to fire into the far corner. The Sky Blues nearly turned the tie around fully within minutes when Matt Godden blazed a big chance over.

All of the first 11 penalties were then scored as the takers showed incredible poise under the most extreme pressure. But when Fankaty Dabo's effort sailed over the bar, Luton's dreams came true.

Unsportsmanlike: Ukraine's Kostyuk, left, walked off without shaking hands with Sabalenka. AP

Tsitsipas survives a Vesely scare

Kostyuk jeered after she honours her pledge not to shake hands with Sabalenka in protest at Russia's invasion of Ukraine

FRENCH OPEN

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Stefanos Tsitsipas held off a spirited comeback from Jiri Vesely to reach the second round of the French Open on Sunday.

The Greek fifth seed won 7-5, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6(7) on Court Philippe Chatrier.

Andrey Rublev, the seventh seed, defeated Laslo Djere of Serbia 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. Rublev has made the quarterfinals in Paris on two occasions.

Earlier, Aryna Sabalenka eased into the second round with a straight-sets win over Ukraine's Marta Kostyuk who honoured her pledge not to shake hands with her Belarusian opponent, a decision greeted with jeers at Roland- Garros.

World No. 2 Sabalenka came through 6-3, 6-2 in a match for which the build-up had been overshadowed by the continuing sporting fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

However, the 25-year-old Sabalenka was unfazed on Court Philippe Chatrier, winning 10 of the last 12 games to reach the second round. At the conclusion of the match, Kostyuk walked quickly to her chair, ignoring her opponent even as Sabalenka performed a theatrical bow to the sparse crowd.

Eighth-seeded Greek Maria Sakkari fell at the first hurdle, losing 7-6(5), 7-5 to Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic.

IMPORTANT RESULTS

First round: Men: 13-Hurkacz (Pol) bt Goffin (Bel) 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4; 11-Khachanov bt Lestienne (Fra) 3-6, 1-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-3; Kokkinakis (Aus) bt 20-Evans (GBr) 6-4, 6-4, 6-4; 24-Korda (USA) bt McDonald (USA) 6-4, 7-5, 6-4; Borges (Por) bt Isner (USA) 6-4, 5-7, 7-6(3), 4-6, 7-6(9); 5-Tsitsipas (Gre) bt Vesely (Cze) 7-5, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6(7); 17-Musetti (Ita) bt Ymer (Swe) 7-5, 6-2, 6-4; 7-Rublev bt Djere (Srb) 6-1, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Women: Frech (Pol) bt 29-Zhang (Chn) 6-1, 6-1; 2-Sabalenka bt Kostyuk (Ukr) 6-3, 6-2; Muchova (Cze) bt 8-Sakkari (Gre) 7-6(5), 7-5; Fernandez (Can) bt 21-Linette (Pol) 6-3, 1-6, 6-3; 28-Mertens (Bel) bt Kuzmova (Svk) 6-1, 6-4; 24-Potapova bt Townsend (USA) 6-1, 6-2; 19-Zheng (Chn) bt Tamara Zidansek (Slo) 6-3, 6-1.

Leicester and Leeds relegated

In roaring form: Osimhen now has scored 25 goals in the Serie A this season. AFP

EURO LEAGUES

Agencies
LONDON

Leicester and Leeds were relegated from the Premier League as Everton won the fight for survival on a dramatic final day of the season on Sunday.

Everton's 1-0 win over Bournemouth condemned Leicester and Leeds to join already-relegated Southampton in the Championship next season.

Leicester, Premier League champion just seven years ago, crashed into the second tier for the first time since 2014 despite a 2-1 victory over West Ham. Leeds' three-year stay in the top-flight ended with a 4-1 defeat against Tottenham.

Napoli forward Victor Osimhen scored in each half but the Serie A champion was held to a 2-2 draw at Bologna. Napoli missed out on the opportunity to surpass its club record of 91 points in a season, set in 2017-18, and now has 87 with one match remaining. The league's leading scorer Osimhen has now netted 25 goals this season.

The results:

Premier League: Arsenal 5 (Xhaka 11, 14, Saka 27, Jesus 58, Kiwior 78) bt Wolves 0; Aston Villa 2 (Luiz 8, Watkins 26) bt Brighton 1 (Undav 38); Brentford 1 (Pinnock 85) bt Manchester City 0; Chelsea 1 (Trippier 27-og) drew with Newcastle 1 (Gordon 9); Crystal Palace 1 (Hughes 66) drew with Nottingham 1 (Awoniyi 31); Everton 1 (Doucoure 57) bt Bournemouth 0; Leeds 1 (Harrison 67) lost to Tottenham 4 (Kane 2, 69, Porro 47, Moura 90+5); Leicester 2 (Barnes 34, Faes 62) bt West Ham 1 (Fornals 79); Manchester United 2 (Sancho 39, Fernandes 55) bt Fulham 1 (Tete 19); Southampton 4 (Ward-Prowse 19, Sulemana 28, 47, Armstrong 64) drew with Liverpool 4 (Jota 10, 73, Firmino 14, Gakpo 72).

Serie A: Bologna 2 (Ferguson 63, De Silvestri 84) drew with Napoli 2 (Osimhen 14, 54); Verona 1 (Gaich 62) drew with Empoli 1 (Magnani 90+6-og); Monza 0 lost to Lecce 1 (Colombo 90+11); Lazio 3 (Hysaj 4, Milinkovic-Savic 37, 89) bt Cremonese 2 (Galdames 54, Lazzari 58-og).

On Saturday: Serie A: Inter Milan 3 (Lukaku 1, Barella 3, Martinez 77) bt Atalanta 2 (Pasalic 36, Muriel 90+1).

LaLiga: Sevilla 1 (Mir 3) lost to Real Madrid 2 (Rodrygo 29, 69).

It's Verstappen all the way; Alonso finishes second

MONACO GP

Reuters
MONACO

Double World champion Max Verstappen led a soggy and slippery Monaco Grand Prix from start to finish on Sunday to stretch his Formula One lead to 39 points and earn Red Bull a sixth win in as many races this season.

In a race livened up by a downpour after a processional 51 laps in dry conditions, Spaniard Fernando Alonso finished second for Aston Martin but a massive 27.9 seconds behind at the chequered flag.

Frenchman Esteban Ocon completed the podium in third place for Renault-owned Alpine, their first of the season, with Mercedes' seven-times World champion Lewis Hamilton fourth and taking a bonus point for fastest lap.

Bull run: Verstappen, who drove to his fourth win of the season, with Prince Albert II. AFP

Super difficult

"That was a real Monaco," Verstappen said after a 78-lap race that lasted an hour and 48 minutes. "It was incredibly slippery and when you are that far in the lead you don't want to push too hard but also you don't want to lose too much time so it's quite difficult in that scenario.

"I clipped the wall a few times and it was super difficult out there. But that's Monaco."

The win was Verstappen's fourth of the season, second in Monaco and 39th of his career. Mexican teammate Sergio Perez, his closest title rival, started in last position after a qualifying crash and finished two laps down in 16th.

Mercedes' George Russell was fifth and home hero Charles Leclerc finished sixth for Ferrari. Alpine's Pierre Gasly, Ferrari's Carlos Sainz, McLaren's Lando Norris and team mate Oscar Piastri completed the points positions.

Verstappen led away cleanly from the start on the medium tyres, with Alonso opting for the harder compound and slotting in close behind with no change to the rest of the points positions.

If the podium ended up being the same top three as on the starting grid, the rain brought added excitement as drivers slid around the track, some getting too close to the barriers, before pitting for intermediate tyres and then full wets.

While Alonso celebrated his fifth podium of the season, and best result yet for Aston Martin, Canadian teammate Lance Stroll retired after repeated tangles with rivals.

The only other driver not running at the finish was Haas' Kevin Magnussen, whose teammate Nico Hulkenberg was 17th in the team's 150th race and collected a five-second penalty for causing a collision with Williams' Logan Sargeant.

The results:
Verstappen (Red Bull) 1:48:51.980; 2. Alonso (Aston Martin) +27.921s; 3. Ocon (Alpine) 36.990; 4. Hamilton (Mercedes) 39.062; 5. Russell (Mercedes) 56.284; 6. Leclerc (Ferrari) 61.890; 7. Gasly (Alpine) 62.362; 8. Sainz Jr. (Ferrari); 63.391; +1 lap: 9. Norris (McLaren); 10. Piastri (McLaren); 11. Bottas (Alfa Romeo); 12. de Vries (AlphaTauri); 13. Zhou (Alfa Romeo); 14. Albon (Williams); +2 laps: 15. Tsunoda (AlphaTauri); 16. Pérez (Red Bull); 17. Hülkenberg (Haas); 18. Sargeant (Williams); **DNF:** Magnussen (Haas); Stroll (Aston Martin).

Standings: Drivers: 1. Verstappen 144; 2. Perez 105; 3. Alonso 93; 4. Hamilton 69; 5. Russell 50.

Constructors: 1. Red Bull Racing 249; 2. Aston Martin 120; 3. Mercedes 119; 4. Ferrari 90; 5. Alpine 35.

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